

## Shcharansky sentence of 13 years' detention

National scenes followed the announcement made a Moscow court yesterday that Mr Anatoly Shcharansky had been sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment for high treason and Soviet agitation. Mr Shcharansky will serve labour camp part of his sentence in conditions one category below the most severe.

## Brother weeps outside Moscow court

Michael Binyon  
London, July 14  
Anatoly Shcharansky, the world-famous human rights activist, was sentenced today to 13 years' imprisonment. A court found him guilty of high treason in the form of espionage and of anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda. Shcharansky, aged 30, will serve three years of his sentence in the harsher form of imprisonment in the Soviet Union, and 10 years in a labour camp with a strict regime, one category below the most severe. The court also ordered that he be deprived of his Soviet citizenship.

The judge's summing up lasted 90 minutes. Mr Leonid Shcharansky said that when the sentence was announced, the specially selected audience applauded and shouted: "They have given him too little."

He said his brother smiled across the courtroom to him during the summing up. "He believed himself very, very brave without any excitement."

The court came at about 4 pm and 15 minutes later a van carrying Mr Shcharansky drove out from the court.

About 10 minutes later, when he was quickly hemmed against a wall by a throng of people, he began to sing a Hebrew song expressing the Jews' yearning for Jerusalem.

The judge looked on impassively. There was no attempt to stop Mr Leonid Shcharansky talking to the western press.

The Filatov case is something of a mystery. The official reports published by Tass do not make it clear who recruited him while he was on a business trip to Algeria. But reports said it was a diplomat from a capitalist state.

Suddenly a torrential shower drenched the crowd, and as people put up umbrellas, Leonid's voice was drowned by a group of Soviet Jews who began to sing a Hebrew song expressing the Jews' yearning for Jerusalem.

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President Carter, in Bonn, for the economic summit, waving happily as a welcoming crowd surges round him. (Business News, page 17)

## Labour gets ready for October election

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

All three main parties found something to endorse about the by-election results on Thursday at Moss Side, Manchester, and Penistone (leeds, page 2) but in the Labour camp there was a feeling that they had done nothing, one way or the other, to help Mr James Callaghan in his decision whether to go for a general election in October.

If the rate of inflation can be held down, as Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, was asserting again yesterday, it will be, and if the Government can be seen to be managing the economy so that a modest recovery gets under way, the Prime Minister may prefer to delay his appeal to the country.

It would be a definite advantage to Labour if the election could be fought on the new electoral register in February. But the balance of forces in the Commons is against him, and there are signs that at least Mr Callaghan's managers of parliamentary business have made the confident assumption that the election will be in October.

Decks are being cleared so that, by August 3, no business will be outstanding and the way will be clear for a formal session to prorogue Parliament before its dissolution.

The Conservatives had to make their calculations on the near marginal seat, Miss Side, in the knowledge that it is not typical and, according to them, has changed slightly in character to make it more Labour-aligned.

They did not find it remarkable that the swing to them was only 3.5 per cent, but they pointed out that the proportion of the total vote had increased by 6.7 per cent. That, it produced, could be brought them to power.

But in Penistone, the safe Labour seat, admittedly on a narrow margin, Mrs Williams, said the election will be in October.

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## Decision soon on new school examination

By Ian Bradley

Mrs Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, promised yesterday that the Government will take a firm decision soon on whether a common school examination at 16-plus should be introduced.

The plan was given in a written parliamentary reply to Mr Bruce Grocott, Labour MP for Lichfield and Tamworth.

A report published yesterday by a steering committee set up by the department concludes that a common examination to replace the GCE O-level and the certificate of secondary education (CSE) is educationally feasible.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Sir James Waddell, suggests that new syllabuses could be introduced by the autumn of 1983, leading to the first examination under a common system in 1985.

The common examination at 16-plus was proposed by the Schools Council in 1976. It is generally agreed by teachers to be preferable to the dual system introduced in 1964.

The National Union of Teachers welcomed the committee's report. It said: "The existence of two different types of examination for 16-year-olds has encouraged a 'sheep and goats' classification in the minds of many outside the schools, particularly employers. It has also been a source of confusion to both teachers and pupils and educationally unnecessary in a largely comprehensive system."

The union called for speedy action from Mrs Williams, saying that the examination reflected the needs and wants of schools and would improve standards.

Mr Alan Evans, the union's education officer, said the Waddell timetable was far too cautious. "If Mrs Williams makes a decision in September, it would be possible for schools to start teaching the syllabus in 1981 and for pupils to sit the exam in 1983," he added.

To speed the process, Mrs Williams should recommend a model constitution to the new system, he said.

Mr Frederick Smith, assistant secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, and Mr Peter Smith, assistant secretary of the Assistant Masters' Association, said that in principle they were in favour of one examination. "But the work which Waddell says needs to be done on the administration is in our view critical if the examination is to prove as successful as its protagonists have constantly maintained," Mr Smith said.

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## Inflation falls to 7.4% but £106m gap in trade disappoints

By Caroline Atkinson

Britain's inflation rate fell again in June, to 7.4 per cent on an annual basis. This is its lowest level since September 1972.

However, trade performance in the month was disappointing. Although the visible trade gap shrank from its high level in May, Britain was still £106m in the red.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, welcomed the news as "further firm evidence that inflation is under control".

He repeated his assertion of a few weeks ago that inflation would "remain well within single figures for the rest of the year". However, June will probably turn out to have been the low point for inflation this year.

Mr Hattersley said that July's figure would "continue the pattern of a stable inflation rate at or about 8 per cent". In both May and June inflation was below 8 per cent.

A better guide to the underlying rate of inflation is given by a comparison of prices, excluding those of seasonal foods, with six months earlier. On this measure inflation has been creeping up since February. It reached 8.9 per cent, expressed at an annualized rate, in June. It was 8.6 per cent in May and 7.2 per cent in February.

The pound fell slightly on foreign exchanges because of the trade figures and a last minute rally by the dollar. It closed at \$1.8325, down 40 points on the day but was unchanged against a basket of currencies at 62 per cent of its end of 1971 value. The stock market took an opposite view and closed 0.4 up at 474.4.

The Government is now confident that inflation will remain in single figures for the rest of this year. What happens after that depends very much on the outcome on wages in the next few months. A White Paper on the Government's pay policy after the end of the present phase three is due within ten days. Figures for the hoped-for level of wage settlements are at present in the draft White Paper. They are significantly below those for the current round.

Mr Hattersley called for "a further year of responsible wage negotiations" to produce the same progress in the inflation battle in 1979 as in 1978.

It says that the examination should be administered by regionally based groups formed from the present GCE and CSE examining boards. It considers it unlikely that more than four groups of boards could be formed in England.

Employers' doubts: The Confederation of British Industry gave a warning of employers' reservations about the recommendations (the Press Association reports). It said it had "serious doubts about whether it is possible to construct a common system to cover the wide range of ability covered by the GCE and the CSE".

Two other teachers' unions welcomed the idea of a single 16-plus examination, but urged caution in introducing it before administrative and structural difficulties mentioned in the report were overcome.

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## Los Angeles tries last gasp against killer smog

From Ivor Davis  
Los Angeles, July 14

The seven million residents of Los Angeles County today were officially told something they knew all along—that the air they breathe stinks and is hazardous to the health. A second-stage smog alert has been issued.

Today the ozone level will be at least 0.35 parts per million, the worst this year, and under state regulations required by the federal Clean Air Act unprecedented steps were ordered to try to curb the pollution.

Whether they can be enforced remains to be seen.

For the last few days a persistent layer of smog has covered the Los Angeles basin, but it was only last night that the controversial emergency plan was put into operation.

All companies with more than 100 workers were told to ask their employees to travel to work in car pools.

About 1,200 of the largest factories were told of the smog alert by a special radio hook-up and all industries that produce hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen, the main ingredient of photochemical smog, were required to cut their operations by 20 per cent.

Since oil-fired power plants are the main sources of pollution, the Los Angeles department of water and power was asked to burn 100 per cent natural gas and the Southern California Edison Company was advised to burn 80 per cent natural gas and to import as much of its power as possible from outside Los Angeles.

Residents in the city were asked to reduce the use of electrical appliances including air conditioning, home heating in some parts of the city the temperature is expected to be above 97°F. They were also asked to avoid unnecessary driving.

In some of the worst smog areas, such as Upland and Fontana, people with respiratory or heart problems were advised to stay at home. Children in those districts, most on school holidays, were told to avoid strenuous outdoor exercise.

Trucker ships in Long Beach and Los Angeles harbours were told to stop unloading by midnight and avoid painting and greasing operations.

A squad of 75 inspectors will fan out all over the basin today to try to enforce the regulations. Courts can impose fines of up to \$500 (225) and six months' jail for offenders.

However, in many cases it would be cheaper for large companies to pay fines rather than to go to expensive and time-consuming lengths to curb their operations.

In theory the measures sound sensible but because of the late warning it is unlikely that the word can be spread to everyone.

Stage two smog alerts have been called earlier this year but an air pollution official said: "This is the first time we've been able to predict one, and so we are required by law to warn the public to take these steps to lessen the impact."

Los Angeles has never had a stage-three smog alert, when the ozone reaches 0.50 parts per million. If the situation ever arose, residents would be asked to stay at home and stop driving altogether and a state approaching emergency would prevail.

## Police seal off village in shotgun siege

From Our Correspondent  
Oxford

Armed police last night sealed off the village of North Aston, Oxfordshire, where an armed man was holding his son and friend hostage.

Mr David Brain, aged 32, armed with a shotgun, was in the Old School House, with his son Mark, aged five, who was removed from a battered wives' refuge in Oxford more than two weeks ago, and Mr David Pearson, a friend from Banbury. Mr Brain said he was carrying out his action to get publicity for grievances against the police at Banbury.

The siege began on Thursday night when Mr Brain entered the house. Police said Mr Richard Bowyer, aged 29, a farm manager, answered a knock and he managed to get out of the house to raise the alarm to the police. Mr Bowyer's girlfriend, being held hostage.

After 12 hours, Mr Brain freed Miss Golby in exchange for Mr Pearson. Mr Leslie Eummett, Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) of Thames Valley Police, said: "We shall now have to sit it out."

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## No evidence of slush fund at British Leyland

Mr Ryder of Eaton Hastings, former chairman of the National Enterprise Board, said in evidence at the Central Criminal Court that he headed a team investigating allegations of a British Leyland "slush fund" last year. The fund was found to be a collection of cash and gifts from various sources, including the British Leyland group, and was used for the personal use of Mr Ryder and his family.

Mr Ryder said he had no knowledge of the fund until he was asked to investigate it. He said he had no knowledge of the fund until he was asked to investigate it.

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## New basis likely for MPs' salaries

A proposal that the Top Salaries Review Body should examine the salaries of ministers and MPs in relation to salaries in commerce and industry is likely to be approved by the Commons when salaries are debated there in two weeks. Yesterday, an order was published setting out increases of 10 per cent for ministers and MPs.

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## Oosterhuis shares in Open lead

Peter Oosterhuis, of Britain, overtook 10 players in move into a joint lead with the holder, Tom Watson, of the United States, for the last round of the Open championship today at St Andrews. Oosterhuis scored a 69 to put him on 211. Jack Nicklaus is one stroke behind and Nicholas Faldo, another Briton, is on 213.

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## Rhodesia resignations

Two African members of the board of Rhodesia Broadcasting Corporation have resigned after only five days in office. They said they had accepted the posts in the hope of changing the corporation's policies but this had proved impossible. Radio and television were Government propaganda vehicles, they said.

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## On other pages

Leader page 13  
Letters: On Christian tolerance, from the Chancellor of Chichester Cathedral, and others; on the cut in Budget deficit, from Mr Tim Congdon; on liberty, from Mr David Steel

Leading articles: The Bonn summit: The Waddell report

Features, pages 5-9, 12  
Fred Emery looks at the by-election results; Jack Longdale on Blowitz of The Times; Saturday Review.

Arts, page 7  
Paddy Kitchen on "Eastern Encounters" at The Fine Art Society; Irving Wardle on Minestrone at the Open Space

Obituary, page 14  
Mr Oliver Messel; Mr Richard Sandell

Sport, pages 21-23  
Cricket: Championship developing into three-horse race; Lever replaces injured Old in Prudential Trophy match; Motor racing: Peterson fastest in British Grand Prix practice; Racing: Fair Solima to complete Oaks double at the Curragh

Business News, pages 16-20  
Stock markets: Breathing a sigh of relief over the trade figures, stocks went better and the FT Ordinary Share Index turned a loss into a gain ending 0.8 up at 474.4. Gifts were fractionally higher by the close

## Allegro checks: BL Cars advise owners of some Allegros to take their cars to distributors for tests on the wheel hubs

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## HOME NEWS

## Hard work on streets of Moss Side brought Labour victory

From John Chartres, Manchester

Labour Party officials in Manchester believe that the timing of their campaign in Moss Side, which seemed to start so slowly, helped them to hold the seat.

At first the other main parties seemed to be making the running with the Liberal, Mr Peter Thompson, unleashing the important controversy over the state of the relatively new housing in the heart of the Ruine ward.

Mr George Morton, the Labour candidate seemed altogether too quiet and diffident to succeed. However, he grew in stature as the campaign went on. He and his supporters worked hard on the streets and put up a telling defence to all the criticisms of the Labour-controlled council's housing policy and of the so-called "infamous" crescent blocks of flats in Ruine.

By contrast, Mrs Barbara Christie arrived on the eve of the poll, and almost the same route of three shopping centres, and concentrated on talking to women.

A detailed analysis yesterday showed that Mr Thompson, the unconventional Liberal candidate, did well in the Ruine and Moss Side housing estates, where his reputation as an advocate of the oppressed was well established.

On the other hand, he obviously did badly in the middle-class Chorlton and Alexandra Park wards in the south of the constituency where previously he had been a Tory voter. He returned to the fold in spite of his declaring constantly that he was an anti-pact Liberal.

Whether the Liberals will contest Moss Side at a general election is a moot point. Mr Thompson remains to be seen.

Mr Paul Carmody, the Labour agent whose predictive skills were again demonstrated, said yesterday that Moss Side would not be one of the North-west seats where Liberal intervention would be necessary.

Mr Thompson's victory was a surprise. He had been a Tory voter in the past.

After hearing that it was after 7 pm before the boy was reported missing, an inquest jury at Glossop, Derbyshire, made a strong plea to parents.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death and added two riders. The first said: "We feel that in this case police were not alerted in sufficient time and strongly urge parents or guardians to provide adequate supervision for young children, and to report to police straight away any missing child."

The second rider urged water authorities to maintain "close and regular surveillance and maintenance" of perimeter fences to ensure adequate security.

The boy's body was found 18 days after his disappearance, two miles from his home at Gables, Glossop. He had disappeared before and been brought back by police.

The next day, Mr Steven Pickford, aged 27, said he last saw the boy about 2 to 3.30 pm in the garden, but later admitted that he was missing about 12.45.

## BL Cars urges hub checks on Allegros

BL Cars last night advised all owners of Allegros with chassis numbers up to 140705 to make contact with distributors for hub tests.

The advice was given after comments by Mr Justice Willis at Teesside Crown Court on Wednesday that the company should have recalled cars after mounting and horrifying evidence of wheels coming apart.

BL Cars said lawyers had been instructed "seriously to consider the possibility of an appeal against the ruling".

Last night's advice was issued "without prejudice to the outcome of the appeal".

The judge had ruled that failure by the company to recall the cars caused a crash in the M1 in which a passenger was left paralysed.

British Airways cancelled 156 domestic flights yesterday because of a 24-hour industrial action by several hundred ground staff at Heathrow airport, London, and Liverpool.

Their action was in support of a 24-hour strike by 200 Liverpool ground staff who are in dispute with the airline over the handover of British Airways services from Liverpool to British Midland Airways.

The staff, mainly Transport and General Workers' Union members, have rejected the cash terms offered.

Flights are cancelled by ground staff

By Our Labour Staff

## Grunwick strikers have ended dispute

By Robert Parker

The leaders of the 54 remaining Grunwick strikers decided yesterday to abandon their 591-day-long attempt to establish union recognition.

The decision was announced by Mr Jack Dransky, secretary of the local trades council, who in many ways has led the strikers. In real terms it means little, either to the Grunwick film-processing company, or to the residents of Willersden, north London, who a year ago had to contend with pickets from all over the country.

For all practical purposes the dispute finished at the end of last year when the House of Lords ruled that a report by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) was null and void. It had recommended union recognition and reinstatement of the 130 or so strikers.

Earlier this week Acas decided that it could do nothing more to resolve the dispute, and the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex), the main union involved, decided it was all over.

The strikers' union has supported them all with strike pay of £24 a week. That, with the legal costs of court actions and pressuring evidence to the Scarman Inquiry last summer, is said to have cost the union more than £500,000.

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## Grunwick strikers have ended dispute

By Robert Parker

The leaders of the 54 remaining Grunwick strikers decided yesterday to abandon their 591-day-long attempt to establish union recognition.

The decision was announced by Mr Jack Dransky, secretary of the local trades council, who in many ways has led the strikers. In real terms it means little, either to the Grunwick film-processing company, or to the residents of Willersden, north London, who a year ago had to contend with pickets from all over the country.

For all practical purposes the dispute finished at the end of last year when the House of Lords ruled that a report by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) was null and void. It had recommended union recognition and reinstatement of the 130 or so strikers.

Earlier this week Acas decided that it could do nothing more to resolve the dispute, and the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex), the main union involved, decided it was all over.

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Youth music: Pupils from Ambleside County First School Percussion Ensemble, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, playing a Swane whistle (left) and a Melodica, a wind keyboard, during the National Festival of Music for Youth 1978, at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon.

## Labour eyes on October poll

Continued from page 1

low poll, the swing to them was 8.8 per cent, and a swing of only about 5 per cent at the general election would give Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, a working majority.

One of Mrs Thatcher's close advisers, when he read reports that Mr Callaghan might be thinking of putting off the election until February, said: "The longer he waits, the harder he will find it to change both the parliamentary uncertainty and the prospects for wages policy and the economy would compel Mr Callaghan to choose October."

Mr David Chadwick, the Liberal candidate at Penistone, held off the Conservative attack effectively and obtained 21.6 per cent of the vote. His achievement was praised by Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, yesterday.

Tories said that they would expect in the country generally to make a much bigger dent in the Liberal vote than proved possible at Penistone. That is because they see a more radical streak in the Liberal Party in the north of England than is apparent in the other English regions.

Mr Steel said: "On a reduced poll we have held on to our 1974 share of the vote in Penistone... It was not the most promising seat, but we have shown that where we are well organized we can consolidate our position."

Even in Moss Side, where the result was disappointing, it is better than the opinion polls have been giving us, and better than other recent by-election results.

Mr Steel said the votes, overall, gave the Liberal Party a good start in the general election. He said the party's position was "a good tonic to the Liberals as they embarked on their summer pre-election campaign, he said."

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## Asians urged to form self-defence groups

By Alan Hamilton

Senior police officers are viewing with alarm a call by immigrant community leaders for Asians to form self-defence groups in the face of increasing violence, much of it from white racist groups.

Scotland Yard has said repeatedly that it does not favour the formation of vigilante groups. The latest suggestion came yesterday in a joint statement from the Federation of Pakistani Organizations, the Federation of Bangladeshi Organizations, and the Indian Workers' Association, of Southall.

They said: "For the past decade the Asian welfare organizations have resisted pressure in encouraging their members to join self-defence vigilante groups in the face of such attacks and in spite of considerable attacks from the supposed forces of law and order. We now believe that the time has come when we must urge our people to look to their own defence."

The immigrant leaders say that the leading ethnic minority groups should be supporting each other in self-defence measures. They have urged Asians to join the Anti-Racist League, which is dedicated to opposing the National Front, and suggests that Asian businessmen should give aid to the organization. Businessmen, they say, should give money to enable Asians to form self-defence groups.

Scotland Yard refused to comment on the appeal last night, but it is known that Sir David Nicholson, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, strongly opposes racial or other minority groups establishing unofficial forces of law and order.

Asian community leaders have called a meeting for July 29, to which they have invited anti-Nazi and Jewish representatives, to discuss further joint action.

First, said every citizen was equal before the law. Second, Conservatives "applaud the great efforts made by many of those who have settled in Britain in recent years". Third, Britain was proud of its tolerance and respect for the law.

Fourth, Tories would seek to promote harmony between people of all backgrounds. Last, she repeated that the Conservatives would introduce revised regulations to control race relations and immigration.

She added that people were worried about the level of immigration into Britain, though Conservative policy had been misrepresented to us as "spread of racial violence". She said the Conservatives would fight to stop "brutal attacks by young thugs on minority communities".

In her speech to the Barnett branch of the Anglo-Asian Conservative Society in London, she emphasized her party's opposition to the National Front.

She said that a party with the Conservatives' record and beliefs "could only be implacably opposed to the National Front and any other group in our society which seeks to stir up racial hatred".

She added that people were worried about the level of immigration into Britain, though Conservative policy had been misrepresented to us as "spread of racial violence". She said the Conservatives would fight to stop "brutal attacks by young thugs on minority communities".

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## OVERSEAS

# Surprise Sadat-Weizman meeting in Austria may have removed the obstacles blocking peace talks

From Moshe Brilliant  
Tel Aviv, July 14

Israel maintained blackout on the details of Mr. Sadat's dramatic talks with President Weizman in Austria yesterday, but the very meeting was viewed here as a breaking of the logjam.

As seen here the immediate cause of the impasse since Egypt abruptly broke off political talks in Jerusalem was President Sadat's insistence that there was no point in further meetings unless Israel changed its position. This was viewed here as a pre-condition, which the Israelis flatly rejected.

Political sources here said the Israeli Defence Minister went to Austria yesterday with an authority to deviate from the Israel peace plan submitted to Egypt in December. So it was assumed here that in talking with Mr. Weizman and scheduling another meeting, the Egyptian leader had dropped his pre-condition.

Observers said the Cabinet may have to reappraise its directives to Mr. Moshe Dayan, the Foreign Minister, for his forthcoming London meeting with Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim

Kamel, his Egyptian opposite number, and Mr. Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State.

It was said that now the ice has been broken the London talks may be able to get down to business.

Mr. Weizman will report to the Cabinet at its weekly meeting on Sunday. He flew back from Austria today to a military base to evade reporters and then drove directly to Jerusalem.

They conferred for one and a half hours. After their talks they both declined to make statements to the press. Members of the usually well-informed parliamentary foreign affairs and security committees said today that they were just as much in the dark about Mr. Weizman's mission as the general public. The committee met Mr. Dayan today but he gave them no information.

Sadat appeal: President Sadat ended a week of Middle East talks in Fuschl, Austria, today with an appeal to Israel to show more flexibility.

OF Mr. Bezio, he said: "What he wants is security, coexistence, normal relations and all the land and sovereignty."

am ready to meet the first three, but not ready to submit land or sovereignty under any circumstances."

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: Mr. Peres said in London that the air of gloom over Middle East peace negotiations was over, and that the ground for next week's London discussions was better prepared than ever before.

This was not just a matter of formal negotiations, but also the atmosphere between the people concerned which, he felt, had been improved after Mr. Weizman's and his own recent meetings with President Sadat.

Mr. Peres, who had been in London as a guest of the Labour Party, particularly commended the statement of principles on the Middle East, drawn up by Herr Brandt and Dr. Bruno Kreisky, which, he said, was probably one of the best and most realistic issued on behalf of the Socialist International.

Commenting on the "agony" suffered by the Christian community in Lebanon, Mr. Peres said Syria had committed a mistake from the political point of view, and a crime from the point of view of humanity.

## Anglican leader told to leave Namibia

From Our Own Correspondent  
Johannesburg, July 14

The Rev. Edward Morrow, the vicar-general of the Anglican Church in Namibia (South-West Africa), his wife Laureen, and Father Heinz Hunke, a Roman Catholic priest, were today ordered to leave Namibia within seven days. The order, signed by Mr. Justice Martindale, the South African-appointed Administrator-General, was served on them by the security police.

Mr. Morrow is the third prominent Anglican churchman to be expelled from Namibia in the past six years. He had been the senior Anglican churchman in the territory until the arrival in Windhoek a week ago of the Most Rev. James Kauwuma, the newly elected Bishop of Namaland.

Immediately after the expulsions became known Sir David Scott, the British Ambassador in Pretoria, called on the South African Foreign Ministry to request that the order on Mr. Morrow and his wife be reversed. Mr. Hans-Joachim Eick, the West German Ambassador, made a similar representation on behalf of Father Hunke.

Sir David said the timing of the expulsions was "most unhelpful".

No reasons for the expulsions were given, but Mr. Morrow told The Times that the South African authorities probably wanted him and Father Hunke "out of the way" before the arrival of the United Nations task force to prepare the way for elections.

The expulsion order came only a day after the South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) had accepted the western settlement plan for the territory.

Another factor influencing the expulsions of the Morrows may have been an Anglican conference in Maseru, Lesotho, last week which issued a statement opposing the plan.

The probable reason for Father Hunke's expulsion is a pamphlet which he circulated a few weeks ago alleging torture by South African troops.

Mr. Morrow, a South African, has been in Namibia for over three years. Father Hunke, a German, has been there for 10 years.

The expulsions were under the Unsettled Persons Removal Act, which was amended only a day ago to empower the Administrator-General to deport undesirable persons.



Governor Jay Rockefeller and his mother after a funeral service for John D. Rockefeller, his father, who was killed in a car crash

## Blacks quit Rhodesia broadcasting

From Frederick Cleary  
Salisbury, July 14

Two African members of the board of the Rhodesia Broadcasting Corporation have resigned, only five days after they and ten other Africans had been dismissed from their posts for more attention in African Nationalist affairs and even reported the views of critics of the Government.

Mr. David Moyo, a lawyer, and the Rev. Charles Manyema, a Methodist minister, said in a letter of resignation to the Corporation that they had accepted the posts as governors in the belief that they could change the policy of using radio and television for Government propaganda. But their belief was misplaced.

The resignations of two of the four blacks on the RBC board has embarrassed the transitional Government. Both are Matabele from Bulawayo and it is rumoured that they have been pressed into resigning by supporters of Mr. Ian Smith, the co-leader of the Patriotic Front guerrilla movement. However, their

assertion that radio and television are used for Government propaganda is historically correct.

Since the transitional Government came into being four months ago the RBC has paid far more attention in African Nationalist affairs and even reported the views of critics of the Government.

Mr. Moyo and Mr. Manyema were dismissed from their posts on Monday. Mr. Moyo was a member of the RBC board since 1974. Mr. Manyema was a member since 1976.

More Africans are appearing on radio and television. Last night Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the Executive Council member and president of the United African National Council, made his first half-hour address to the nation, and African music with a strong African bias was played.

The internal accord reached in March had ended the need for fighting, he said. "I reach out first to the nationalist guerrillas wherever you are right now. I want you to know that the objectives of your war and the people's war have now been achieved."

—Agence France-Press.

said that progress towards abolishing racial discrimination has been arrested by differences over segregated schools, hospitals and some residential areas. He said the inability to remove racial discrimination was one of the transitional Government's biggest failures.

The "whites" argument that retaining tribal trust lands would be of benefit to Africans was false, Mr. Moyo said, because there were economic advantages such as investment in opening the areas to people of all races.

Mr. Muzorewa's appeal, in his address to the nation last night, Bishop Muzorewa appealed several times to guerrillas to "come home".

The internal accord reached in March had ended the need for fighting, he said. "I reach out first to the nationalist guerrillas wherever you are right now. I want you to know that the objectives of your war and the people's war have now been achieved."

—Agence France-Press.

## Vicious feud thins ranks of Palestinian guerrillas

From Christopher Walker  
Beirut, July 14

In the wake of this kidnapping of at least 100 Lebanese, a vicious feud broken out inside the ranks of Palestinian guerrillas near Tyre.

By early tonight, reports from the region that several Palestinians had been killed and a further 40 were injured in a gun battle inside the El Buss camp.

Today's violence represents a determined attempt by Fatah, the largest Palestinian guerrilla group, to crack the breakaway PLO Liberation Front, a group which is closely allied with Iraq and responsible for kidnapping later releasing the United Nations soldiers.

To Sidon, also in the south of the country, a guerrilla force in the headquarters of the Liberation Front, another Iraq revolutionary group, people were reported dead and injured.

By tonight it was reported from the south that the guerrillas had killed about 40 members of the PLO and surrendered to Fatah commanders and have over their weapons.

Arms blast: An explosion, like a small earthquake, apparently in a Palestinian camp, toppled a building today, killing at least 40 people, police sources said. The explosion occurred in a Palestinian neighbourhood in West Beirut.

Israeli sources: Senior diplomatic sources in Israel today said that Israeli military forces had been alerted to the possibility of a Palestinian attack on the Golan Heights since last week's fighting between the Israelis and Syrian troops.

The sources said weapons, mostly small arms and anti-tank rockets, were loaded from two small trucks into a large truck and 10 miles north of Beirut.

Leftist newspapers in Beirut have reported that weapons have been shipped to the PLO from the Golan Heights and to the small port of Tyre for fighters of the Christian National Party. —Reuter.

## Russians give version of trials

From Our Own Correspondent  
Moscow, July 14

Soviet television tonight read out the full text of a long article to be printed tomorrow in the main Soviet newspaper on the Shcharansky case, the first official mention of it to Soviet readers.

Entitled "According to Their Deserts," it said both Mr. Shcharansky and Mr. Filanov deserved their sentences. They were not victims who accidentally made a false step; they were "criminals who were well aware of what they were doing."

Mr. Shcharansky, said, wanted to leave his homeland for the West. But there was no place for him there as there were thousands of unemployed workers. He was not so silly that he had not seen this, the statement said.

## Senators demand US retaliation

Continued from page 1

He called for Western trade sanctions against the Soviet Union.

Washington: News of the sentences brought renewed demands from congressmen for the United States to retaliate against Moscow.

Senator Jacob Javits (Republican) called Mr. Shcharansky's conviction and sentence an "international disgrace" and an "insult to the word of the President of the United States, who personally says Shcharansky never spied for the United States."

Meanwhile diplomatic sources said Mr. Shcharansky's wife, Natalya, would meet Vice-President Walter Mondale in Washington on Monday. —Reuter.

London: Britain may cancel more visits by Soviet officials because of the sentences, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

Dr. Owen, the Foreign Secretary, has already cancelled a visit by Soviet Minister of Coal, Mr. Boris Bratchenko, due to begin on Sunday.

Mr. John Davies, shadow Foreign Secretary, said the verdicts were "a travesty of justice" and a "mockery of the Helsinki agreement."

Brussels: The liberal group in the European Parliament condemned the imprisonment as "a barbarous attack on human rights."

Geneva: A Swiss Government offered to give asylum to dissidents now being tried or sentenced was communicated to the Soviet Ambassador in Bonn today (Alan McGregor writes).

more visits by Soviet officials because of the sentences, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

Dr. Owen, the Foreign Secretary, has already cancelled a visit by Soviet Minister of Coal, Mr. Boris Bratchenko, due to begin on Sunday.

Mr. John Davies, shadow Foreign Secretary, said the verdicts were "a travesty of justice" and a "mockery of the Helsinki agreement."

Brussels: The liberal group in the European Parliament condemned the imprisonment as "a barbarous attack on human rights."

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## Vietnam mocks China for denying refugees entry

Bangkok, July 14.—Vietnam

mocked China today for closing its border to Chinese refugees from Vietnam and Cambodia.

The Communist Party newspaper Nhan Dan commented on China's insistence that, as from July 12, all refugees must have "repatriation certificates."

"All of a sudden they have closed the Chinese border gates in the face of the victimized Chinese," the newspaper said.

The article, broadcast by radio Hanoi and monitored here, said the exodus of about 150,000 ethnic Chinese from Vietnam in the past few months had been stopped by China as a propaganda ploy.

It denied Chinese allegations that some of the refugees were Vietnamese spies and denounced Peking for refusing to accept Hanoi's lists for ethnic

Chinese applying for repatriation. Those lists, the Hanoi newspaper said, included names of 1,500 Chinese residents who fled from Cambodia.—UPI.

Hanoi: China's suspension of aid to Vietnam and Albania shows that the Chinese are using their foreign assistance as "a tool of big-power chauvinism," the Vietnamese newspaper Nhan Dan said today.

"Aid has become a means for the Chinese authorities to impose their will on recipient countries and to force them to take their line and become a mere tool like the Pol Pot-Jeng Sary clique in Kampuchea (Cambodia)," the article continued.

"When the recipient countries go against their will, the Chinese authorities retaliate brutally." —Agence France-Press.

## Pakistan and Turkey agree on defence

From Our Correspondent  
Islamabad, July 14

Mr. Gunduz Oksun, the Turkish Foreign Minister, who arrived here yesterday, is understood to have discussed the participation of Pakistan and Turkey in the new defence force and their future role in Cento at three-hour talks here today with Agha Shahi, Pakistan's Foreign Minister.

Mr. Oksun, who is visiting Pakistan for the first time since the new Turkish Government assumed office, said yesterday that Cento should be re-evaluated in the context of détente.

"I believe our age is not an age of confrontation but an age of the generation and détente," he said.

He also expressed the hope that India's attitude towards Turkish and Pakistani applications for guest status at the non-aligned conference would be favourable.

Mr. Oksun, who left tonight for Karachi on his way home, also met General Zia ul-Haq, chief martial law administrator, and President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry.

Mr. David Newton, the United States Under Secretary of State, is arriving here later today on a three-day visit after talks in Tehran, Delhi and Kabul.

Meanwhile, Afghan students who reportedly have crossed into northern Pakistan recently have spoken of continued resistance in outlying areas of Afghanistan to the new regime.

## Conference dares not go too far in fighting apartheid Church quandary in South Africa

From Nicholas Ashford  
Johannesburg, July 14

The dilemma facing the Christian churches in South Africa—how far should they go, dare they go, in opposing a political system which they believe to be unjust and oppressive—was highlighted today by the annual congress of the South African Council of Churches here.

The council represents all the main denominations in South Africa except for the white Dutch Reformed churches and a handful of minor non-confessional ones. In a country where the majority are black and white, are churchgoers, it is an influential body.

Repeatedly and unequivocally the council has stated its total opposition to apartheid, condemning the system's violence and supporting the aims of liberation in southern Africa.

This year, however, the conference was called upon to consider practical ways in which the system could be changed by the country's white rulers and to the pleas by blacks "to treat us as human beings," as Bishop Desmond Tutu, the council's general secretary, put it. Two aspects were particularly considered: the role of the church in investment in upholding the existing system, and whether the churches should condone violence as a last resort to change the system.

The discussion on investment was long and at times heated, and because of the sensitivity of the issue it took place behind closed doors. In the end a long and ambiguous resolution was approved stating that investments had largely been used to "support the prevailing pattern of power and privilege" and calling on foreign investors "to review radically their investment and employment practices in such a way as to benefit the total population."

Bishop Tutu said that the council was not making a specific call for withdrawal of investment or the stopping of new investment. What he was saying to foreign companies and foreign churches is that we have given you the facts on the role of overseas investment in South Africa," he said. "It is up to you to decide what to do. It is their responsibility."

On the question of violence—the council prefers to call it "justifiable resistance"—the conference made no judgment on a backgrund paper which argued that it was morally legitimate for Christians to resist "evil laws." The paper has been referred to individual member churches.

The conference's failure to take a more positive stand on these two issues was criticized as timid and short-sighted by a number of delegates.

The 60 or so delegates were clearly divided on the best action to take. Would a cessation of new investment produce the desired changes or would it merely increase the misery of the blacks? At what stage could resistance be regarded as justifiable?

There was also an awareness that religious bodies are very much under the critical gaze of the South African authorities.

A clear stand against investment or in favour of resistance could be construed as an offence under the Terrorism Act. For this reason, the council had a lawyer present throughout the discussion on foreign investment.

Notwithstanding the moderate tone of the conference's final resolutions, one Government minister accused the churches of using insidious language and seeking a confrontation with the Government.

Bishop Tutu denied this. "I am not bloodthirsty. I am not even a radical," he said. "I am only someone who hopes his fellow white South Africans can see that we blacks are still holding out our hands to them."

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## Cleveland hit by police strike

Cleveland, July 14.—The

2,000-strong police force of Cleveland, Ohio's largest city, went on strike today and stopped most city services.

Mr. Dennis Kucinich, the Mayor, asked for National Guard troops to protect the 800,000 population.

Health workers, street cleaners, park employees and other municipal workers refused to cross the police picket lines set up to protest against the dismissal of 13 policemen who declined to join one-man patrols in crime-ridden areas.

A city judge issued a temporary restraining order against the strike only minutes before it began last night. But the Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association said the stoppage would continue until each of their members had been served with a back-to-work order.

A spokesman said the striking officers were "keeping their eye on the city," despite the walkout and would "not allow anyone to run away with the city." —UPI and Reuter.

## Mauritania peace aim in Sahara

Nouakchott, July 14.—New

Mauritania head of state, Colonel Salek, today pledged war for peace in the Sahel guarantee freedoms, promote multi-party system and a new economic policy.

In a broadcast, he said the new regime, which took power on Monday, determined to find a solution to the war in Western Sahara against Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas. This was the first time the brother of the late President had been in agreement with the brother kingdom Morocco.

Colonel Salek said the Military Committee for Nado (National Defence Organisation) was affecting a policy of national recovery.

Economically and financially, Colonel Salek said, he would encourage private initiative within the framework of a free economy. The country's indebtedness must be studied immediately with its creditors and would undoubtedly be adequate international backing, he said. —Agence France-Press.

## Paul Robeson turned down for Hollywood honour

Los Angeles, July 14.—Paul

Robeson, the black singer whose left-wing politics upset many Americans, has been refused a posthumous star in the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce disclosed today.

Robeson, who died in January, 1966, aged 77, was nominated by Actors Equity and the Screen Actors' Guild to have a star bearing his name inscribed on the Walk of Fame, a strip of pavement on Hollywood Boulevard.

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce selection committee, which chooses the stars, rejected the nomination. Mr. William Hertz, the chairman of the committee, was not available for comment today.

He was quoted in Variety, the show business newspaper,

as saying the rejection of Robeson had nothing to do with his politics.

Robeson earned most of his fame on the stage and in concert. His films included Emperor Jones, Sanders of the River, Show Boat, and King Solomon's Mines.

The singer was a frequent visitor to the Soviet Union and had his son educated there.

Robeson's passport was confiscated in 1950 because he refused to sign a statement that he had never been a member of the Communist Party. His passport was returned to him in 1953 and he later lived in England.

Sir Charles Chaplin was denied a place on the Walk of Fame for 16 years before his star was inscribed there in 1972.—Reuter.

## Nigeria eases out military but politics still banned

Lagos, July 14.—Nigeria's

armed forces are to begin their withdrawal from Government in 10 days' time, after 12 years of military rule, but the ban on civilian political activities will remain in force, Lieutenant General Oluiseun Obasanjo, the head of state, announced tonight.

General Obasanjo said that military governors of the country's 19 states would be replaced on July 24 by a brigade or garrison commander in each state who will act as military administrator until the final handover to civilians, planned for some time before September next year.

Military Commissioners (ministers) in the federal Government who have been selected to remain in the armed forces after the return to civilian rule will be redeployed on purely military assignments on July 24, as will the state governors.

However, senior officers still holding purely political offices in the final year of military government will retire from the armed forces at the time of the changeover, General Obasanjo said. "This would mean that both he and Shehu (Tahiru) would be redeployed on purely military assignments on July 24, as will the state governors."

General Obasanjo's statement, televised nationwide, included stern reminders to aspiring politicians that the ban

on political activity would be strictly enforced.

"The federal military Government will not tolerate any disruption of its programme by any individual or group for whatever reason," he said. The Administration was committed to bringing about an elected Government in 1979 through "peaceful process of free and fair elections and will not tolerate from anybody or any group any act that is capable of diverting us from this goal."

Nor would the Supreme Military Council permit anyone to use "the name or office of anyone of us to canvass for political support or patronage. Any such action will be ruthlessly dealt with," he said.

The military Government had no special interest who would succeed it and had "absolute confidence in the sense of judgment of our people."

The new state military administrators, who were named during the broadcast, would appoint civilian deputies from among their commissioners who would be expected to remain outside immediate post-military rule politics. Likewise existing commissioners who would be expected to take part in party politics next year would be "excused from continuing to serve as members of government," General Obasanjo said. —Agence France-Press.

## Resignation of editor starts political storm

Wellington, July 14.—Five

hundred staff on the Christian Church Star, one of New Zealand's leading papers, passed a unanimous resolution today calling for the resignation of their editor, jeopardizing the credibility of press freedom in the country.

Earlier this year the editor, Mr. Michael Forbes, wrote a series of editorials urging the ruling National Party to dismiss Mr. Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister. The paper's staff said they believed he was forced to resign as a consequence.

Mr. Muldoon questioned in Parliament said: "The editor wrote some defamatory articles about me earlier this year. I haven't the slightest doubt in the long run this was associated with the man's resignation following an address Press Council ruling."

The ruling, given last month, related to a dispute between Mr. Forbes and the Prime Minister's press secretary.

The board of NZ News Ltd, which controls the newspaper, today would ask Mr. Forbes, who is 44 and editor since 1974, to reconsider his decision.—Reuter.

## Satellite will monitor the magnetic field

Cape Canaveral, July 14.—A

European space agency satellite designed to monitor the magnetic field that protects Earth from harmful radiation blasted off today from the air force station at Cape Canaveral.

A previous mission failed in April of last year when a defect in a rocket placed the satellite in the wrong orbit.

The replacement launched today was due to be put into orbit 22,300 miles above the Earth. The drum-shaped spacecraft was to be controlled by the European space operations centre in Darmstadt, West Germany.—Reuter.

## Mr Whitlam leaving politics for university post

Canberra, July 14.—Mr

Gough Whitlam, the former Australian Prime Minister who was dismissed in 1975 three years after bringing the Labor Party back to power, announced today he was retiring from politics to become a university lecturer.

He said he would formally resign his parliamentary seat before the end of this month and take up a three-year fellowship in political science and international relations at the Australian National University here.

During his fellowship he is to be given time for writing and is already working on two books—one on the workings of parliament, government and opposition and another on Australia's future relations with South-East Asia.

He is also expected to write

a book on the British Labor Government of Sir Harold Wilson.

Mr. Whitlam, aged 62, was Australia's most controversial politician, an ebullient and articulate barrister who became the country's first Labor Prime Minister for 23 years when he was elected in 1972.

But in a political upheaval three years later, his Government was dismissed from office by Sir John Kerr, the Governor-General, to end a crisis between the upper and lower houses of Parliament.

He stepped down from the Labor Party leadership after the last defeat in December, last year, and has since made few public appearances, except in routine visits to Parliament.

—Reuter.

## Thais lay on welcome for Cambodian

From Our Correspondent  
Bangkok, July 14

Mr. Leng Sary, Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia, in charge of foreign affairs, today started a four-day official visit to Thailand following two years of extensive border fighting between the countries.

Mr. Sary swept aside strict security arrangements when he arrived in Thailand.

After walking across the bridge which marks the border and embracing Dr. Upadit Pacharanyangkun, the Thai Foreign Minister, he suggested that Thai and foreign journalists be allowed to come closer.

The Thai authorities had kept

journalists half a mile from the bridge. When journalists approached the Cambodian party, Mr. Sary greeted them with a smile. His aides, wearing dark grey Mao suits identical to his, handed out printed statements in Thai and English.

In the statement Mr. Sary said: "We are happy to be here to pay a friendly official visit at the invitation of the Royal Thai Government."

He conveyed "friendly regards" from the Cambodian people to the Thai people who, he said, used to have long-standing relations. He hoped his talks in Bangkok would further increase mutual understanding and better develop the friendship of the two peoples.

In Bangkok, Mr. Sary began talks with the Thai Foreign Minister on measures to end border clashes. The Thai Government also asked Mr. Sary to release Thai fishermen and their trawlers now being held in Cambodia.

King Bhumibol will receive Mr. Sary tomorrow and General Kringsak Chammanand, the Thai Prime Minister, will cook him lunch at his own home on Sunday.

Mr. Sary and his party are occupying seven rooms at Bangkok's Oriental Hotel, one of the more luxurious and expensive in Asia.

## GERMAN BY RADIO

Part 2 of "Familie Baumann" course will be broadcast on Oct. 4th/1978, Wednesday 17.45-18.00 GMT, med. wave 36.5 m/1268 kHz (repeats on Saturdays). Course book supplied free on receipt of coupon. Do not send coupon if you enrolled for Part 1: Book 2 will be sent automatically. For beginners. Book 1 still available.

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We also broadcast daily in English, presenting Germany today. Leaflet on request.

Please send: ☐ Familie Baumann Book 2  
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☐ English-language programme leaflet

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-7-



# Saturday Review

## Brendan Bracken's newspaper

by Lord Drogheda

was some time during 1932 I met Brendan Bracken. I met him first in the office of one of the Parnells, Pamela Smith, the daughter of F. R. Smith, first Lord Birkenhead. I met him again in the office of a member of a strange rather snobbish character, Courtauld Thomson, a me-like figure with a wild business sense, who was the chairman of Brooks's, and who had befriended the late Lord Dunsany. (He was the owner of a house called Dunsany Wood, which before his death he bequeathed to the nation, and in consequence, ended.)

My chance encounter with Brendan was a turning point in my life. He was a major influence in my life, and the end of 1932 I was working with the Mining Company. The job was as dull as metal prices were unacceptably low, and prospects advanced.

Therefore, when Brendan offered me a job with the Financial News, I leapt at the chance of escape.

The Financial News was part of a group he had formed in the twenties on behalf of a family trust which owned a & Sportswood, of which he had been made a director. Colonel Jack Crosswaite, who became head of the group following the death of his father-in-law, James Bracken, had been recommended by Lord Beaverbrook. He was only 24 years when he joined the board, most of the other directors were past retirement age, and rampant nature seems to have been allowed free rein.

He was without question one of the most extraordinary men of his generation. His back was wrapped in mystery, and he preferred it that way. He had been born in Ireland, was sent to Australia as a child, and then appeared at Dunsany (a public school in Ulster) at the age of 18, where he was headmaster, and the headmaster that he was 15 and thus gaining entrance. When he left the school after two terms he had the spell of a schoolmaster, and he contrived to attach him-

self to Winston Churchill during a by-election in Dundee, from which moment he became Churchill's self-appointed and dedicated servant for life.

His appearance was unforgettable. Some of his friends nicknamed him affectionately "Tarzan". Wherever he went he created a vivid impression. He was tall and well-built, with an immense shock of unruly, crinkly red hair. He had powerful features, with prominent lips and a rather large soft nose, and a deep, very short-sighted, he always wore spectacles. His voice was deep and penetrating, and it seldom tired although it was in constant use.

With the passage of time, I was to become closely involved with the personalities and problems of the various publications in the group formed by Brendan (in which it should be said that, contrary to popular opinion, he had no personal stake at all). When I first joined, after Brendan had asked me in a casual off-hand manner whether I would like to work with him, I was offered the job of collecting financial advertising. It was a time of deep depression, and the Financial News was losing five thousand copies a day. The company was losing money, and had to be reconstructed. My knowledge of finance and of advertising was nil, and I do not know what Brendan saw in me. He never interviewed me at all, which is just as well, for I was very underdeveloped and inexperienced. As with nearly all his actions and nearly all his appointments, he went by hunch and not by reasoned judgment, but looking back on it, he must have been reasonably pleased with his decision, because we remained firm friends and colleagues until his death in 1958.

I knew Brendan for a quarter of a century, and during that time I established a great intimacy with him without ever knowing any single detail of his origins or early life. He was at all times for me a figure of mystery. I loved him dearly, although at times I hated him for his unreason. I respected him immensely for his loyalty and his courage, and for his integrity.

At the end of the year a controlling interest in the Financial News was acquired from the Camrose family, and a merger with the Financial News was effected. The company was public but control was held by Eyre & Sports-

wood, and Oliver, the son of Colonel Jack Crosswaite-Eyre, joined the board. Lord Drogheda (then Lord Moore) became managing director of the combined paper. Brendan Bracken was appointed chairman, but his office was in the Union Corporation building, and he left the day to day running of the business to Lord Moore. Before many years had passed, the offices of the merged paper became inadequate, and it was decided to erect a new building, Bracken House, on a large bomb-site close to St Paul's Cathedral.

It is sad to relate that soon after the decision to put up a new building strains and stresses began to develop between Brendan and Oliver Crosswaite-Eyre and I found myself in a fairly agonizing position in the middle. Brendan was surely already becoming ill. One symptom of which his colleagues were especially aware was an increasing caution. As Oliver's trustee I found it difficult to get any information from him. He was very reticent, although it would be wrong to think of him as a very rich man. He was MP for the New Forest where Warrens, his family home, was situated. He loved Westminster, but he also loved country life. He farmed quite extensively, and he was constantly trying to improve the standards of his farm and the quality of his stock of cattle. High-class cattle were not cheap, and improvements to farm buildings were costly. Reference had therefore to be made to the trustees for approval, which effectively meant reference to Brendan. His agreement was nearly always forthcoming, but only after questioning and procrastination; and he usually treated Oliver as a rather naughty schoolboy.

In the office there was constant hickering between them over a proposal to print the Observer in our new building. Oliver was chairman of the St Clements Press (the name of the printing subsidiary of the Financial Times Ltd) and he had therefore been deeply involved in the discussions. Brendan's development of cold feet and his unreasoning reluctance to examine the figures dispassionately created an awkward and embarrassing situation all round. Had he said in the beginning that he would not

countenance the FT doing the job on any terms, which was his true attitude, things would have been vastly easier. But he began by being enthusiastic, so that much time was wasted and feelings ran high. The real battle between them arose in relation to a famous property named Kynard situated on the west coast of Scotland; on the mainland, yet only approachable from the sea. This was something upon which Oliver had set his heart, and which he eventually acquired. The purchase price was considerable, but the property was unique for its situation and natural beauties. Brendan was terrified that it would be a bottomless pit into which money would flow. The position became so difficult that Oliver's father, a good and kindly man who had emigrated to South Africa, in order to help his family more than for any other reason, personally delivered a letter by hand to Brendan in which he proposed that in the interests of their future friendship it would be sensible for Brendan to cease from being a trustee; asking him therefore in polite language to resign his position. Brendan had an immensely sentimental side to his nature, and he reacted as though he had been hit by a pole-axe. In the letter no reference had been made to Brendan's chairmanship of the FT in which it must be remembered the Crosswaite-Eyre family had the controlling stake, whereas Brendan had no stake at all. Brendan, however, made it clear that if he gave up being a trustee he would also give up the FT. In a mood of despair he told me that he intended to sever all connection with the Eyres—which would mean resigning from the FT. I pleaded with him and urged him not to do so, writing in somewhat emotional terms:

"I am filled with gloom by what you said after lunch today. I know how trying your trusteeship has been to you, but that should surely cease now that you have ceased to be a trustee. The effect upon everyone here not to mention our shareholders of your ceasing to be chairman would be deplorable. I do beg you not to resign, and also not to announce your intention of resigning at the Annual Meeting. I need you, we all need you very

much, your leadership was perhaps never more needed than now, and if you go I shall follow for my heart will no longer be in it."

But to no avail. I was therefore left that either of them wanted or expected Brendan to give up the chairmanship, and therefore the question of what I might or might not do had not arisen. The prospect of losing the managing director as well as the chairman came as something of a shock. At this point Luke Mainwaring of Cazenove & Co, the company's stockbrokers, who had played a very helpful part at the time of the merger in 1945 between the Financial Times and the Financial News (acquired originally for the Eyre family by Brendan in 1926), came to the rescue. He was a close friend of Oliver from the war years, as well as being his (and the Eyre Trust's) financial adviser; and he had become a good friend of mine through our regular contacts in the City. He was therefore free to speak his mind. Also he had an elder brother, Daniel, who was then one of the principal managing directors of the City. He was therefore free to speak his mind. Also he had an elder brother, Daniel, who was then one of the principal managing directors of the City. He was therefore free to speak his mind. Also he had an elder brother, Daniel, who was then one of the principal managing directors of the City. He was therefore free to speak his mind.

direction of Michael Benthall and the skilful management of Alfred Francis who kept the Old Vic going by brilliant stratagems at a time when Government support for the Arts was on a derisory scale. Without their efforts there might well not be a National Theatre today, for in a sense they provided the foundations. The same may be said of Oliver Lyttelton, whose mother dedicated herself to the cause of a National Theatre from the early days of its conception; to honour her memory he made every endeavour to make the dream a reality, becoming the first chairman in 1962.

Quite soon after his appointment to the board of the Financial Times Oliver Poole had to undergo the peculiar unpleasant experience of the Bank Rate Tribunal. This body was set up by the Home Secretary, R. A. Butler, in November 1957 to enquire into allegations that "information about the raising of bank rate on 19 September, from 5 per cent to 7 per cent (one of a series of measures the purpose of which was to protect the value of the £ at \$2.80) had been improperly disclosed to persons who had used the information for the purpose of private gain. On 18 September the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Peter Thorneycroft, had personally seen representatives of selected newspapers (including myself from the Financial Times, under the mistaken impression perhaps that I was editor of the paper) and given a very grim account of the pressures on the pound, and of the need to restrict the supply of money and hold down the level of Government expenditure; the kind of statement that would have been relevant in 1977 as it was in 1957, the only difference being that since then the value of the pound had fallen by almost 40 per cent. At no point did he make any reference to the proposed increase in bank rate. Nor did he do so when he saw Oliver Poole, who had just handed over the chairmanship of the Tory Party but who remained deputy chairman, and who was regarded at the headquarters of the party in power as an important point of reference on all economic and financial matters. Representatives of the TUC and of the employers' organizations were also seen by Thorneycroft but by two other Ministers.

The allegations about the misuse of information were vaguely hinted at by one or two less responsible journalists, the implication being that someone or other had profited by selling Government securities in the knowledge that they would fall when the increase in bank rate was announced, after which they could be bought back for a nice turn. On October 9 the Rt Hon Harold Wilson, MP, addressed a warning to the Lord Chancellor suggesting that "misgivings on this matter need to be allayed", and less than two weeks later the Tribunal consisting of Lord Justice Parker and two distinguished QCs was appointed. They found unequivocally that there had been no improper disclosure of information, and no improper action of any kind, but between the first sitting of the Tribunal and the issue of its report on January 1, 1958, anyone who had seen Thorneycroft or the other two Ministers waited somewhat anxiously, not because of any sense of guilt, but because of natural uncertainty. Above all, knowing the personalities chiefly involved, I was sickened that the finger of suspicion could be pointed at them.

To revert to the transfer of control of the FT, there was a clear risk that if a group controlling a leading merchant bank also controlled the only exclusively business-oriented newspaper, criticism could arise. It was therefore important that Pearsons should go out of their way not to interfere at all in the policy of the paper. They had given Brendan a categorical assurance to this effect, and I can say with absolute conviction that they never did so. Indeed, from a staff relations point of view it might be argued that they went too far in this respect for John Cowdrey himself was conspicuously absent. His determination not to interfere almost seemed to us in the office an attitude of aloofness. He seldom came near us, and this was noted by some, but I think it was more his desire not to be accused of interference. Fortunately for him, as well as for us, very soon after the takeover of control, there was a major row relating to the affairs of the British Aluminium Company in which certain merchant banks were pitted against one another. On one side was Lazard, Mercifully the commentators of the FT took a point of view diametrically opposed to the Lazard position, but nothing was ever said to suggest that this was in

any way regrettable. It was thus made clear from the start that the editorial independence of the FT would not be in jeopardy, and there was a great sense of relief. Most important though was the feeling of being less cramped and confined as a result of belonging to a very large group. The explanation for this should be self-evident. Essentially it was that the larger group was able to take a broader view since its risks were more widely spread. Also it needs to be said that both Pat Gibson and Oliver Poole are men of exceptional talent, and no one could have done more than they did to bolster my rather insecure sense of confidence in my own abilities.

There was one approach I received during the early months after the transfer of control of the FT to Pearsons, which it would be wrong of me not to record. One day, I forget the date, Siegmund Warburg asked to see me. I had come to know him in the course of my daily rounds, and I liked and admired him enormously. He had immense entrepreneurial flair, and he achieved marvels in overcoming the built-in resistance of established City institutions to a talented newcomer in a hallowed preserve. His approach was to ask me to become a managing director of his bank. The salary would at first be less than I was then receiving but the scope was clearly greater. I was sorely tempted at the time, but I did not leave the FT which had become such an integral part of my life, and for the future of which I felt a good deal happier following the transfer of control, although I also felt that I had a duty to see it safely through. I did however write to tell Brendan who at the time was away in South Africa on his last visit. This was his reply:

"I have been in remote Swaziland and have only just seen your letter."

As you will understand it is hard to put aside affection and interest when asked for my advice about an offer which must end a partnership of some 25 years, and exceeding a quarter of a century.

To get an offer which will bring you capital for your personal services in a time when Somerset House has ended almost all chances of capital accumulation from ordinary "gainful employment" is an opportunity which is indeed unlikely to recur.

Remembering all I owe to you and the business I've derived from our long partnership I must still feel very selfish feelings and advise you to seize this rare opportunity.

I know, too, how the offer of a roving commission now appeals to you. With a business notice as Dearlove's successor in the general management of the FT you as managing director would be more than ever bound to stick to the last in London.

Working for shareholders in a large public company will never enable you to create capital. The only way (it's hardly ever to be found) is to come across a rich, international entrepreneur many of whose dealings are outside Britain and the jurisdiction of Somerset House.

By a coincidence in these Central Mining negotiations I've been dealing with the American capitalist Escobar who some years ago took a liking to one of its managers, Gordon Richards, and offered him a job with a reward in kind. Richards is now bird happy and his former senior colleagues greatly envy his lot.

If your merchant banker is Warburg he can surely do for you what English has done for Richards.

Warburg is set apart from the rest of merchant bankers who pride themselves on hallowed but faded names and who for the most part stand upon their dignity and little else.

Warburg has a seeing eye, great ingenuity and resource plus inheritance of honourable skill in money getting. He also cares for more civilised things than torques and neckties.

Your going from the FT must be a very sharp loss. No one can swiftly take your place and you will miss things for which you care. But you have to think of the advantage to Joan and Derry of your getting that rare thing called capital—some of it, I hope, not in sterling.

Dear G, newspaper life will never be what it was before. I shall miss you.

As our newly installed owner will want somebody of long experience of the FT to be steward of his fairly costly interest, I shall give up the Union Corporation and look after the day to day affairs of the papers until a new managing director can be found or trained. I shall then depart in the hope of peace and of living in London no more.

I wish I had your liking for travel. Three weeks of constant meetings and frequent meetings with new acquaintances have driven me beyond all telling. Hence this inadequate letter written partly in the office here, and for the rest in a bumpy plane.

That letter of course had the effect of confirming me in my deeply felt instinct that I could not move elsewhere. I must, I was sure, stay where I was until put out to grass, an eventuality to which since I was then only 47 I perhaps rather foolishly gave too little thought.

The idea of a total uprooting would really have been very hard to face up to. I not only had the FT to supervise, I also had to pay a good deal of attention to the various other constituent parts of the group brought together by Brendan of most of which I had to act as chairman, and with each of which I had naturally developed strong personal ties. Pride of place in a sense went to our monthly, The Banker, because it was his first venture into the field of financial journalism, from which everything else stemmed. Its sale was tiny, but it stood on its own feet. After the appointment of William Clarke as editor, it developed into an important and profitable magazine. (Clarke later became Lord Director of the Committee on Invisible Exports, but continued as editorial consultant.) There was the Investors Chronicle, the appeal of which was also pretty specialized, and its profitability precarious until 10 years later, in 1967, I successfully approached Cecil King about the possibility of a merger between it and its rival the Stock Exchange Gazette, then owned by IPC, whose chairman Cecil was, although his deposition, so widely known, that Hugh Cudlipp was not far off. There was The Practitioner, the medical monthly, which was extremely well edited by Bill Thomson, a canny non-Scottish doctor, with an inexhaustible appetite for work while Michael Flecker, despite his frequent need for reassurance, provided very capable management.

There was also History Today, a monthly magazine that we had started in 1950 by agreement with the Historical Association, whose president then was G. M. Trevelyan. This magazine was a great love of Brendan's because of his passionate addition to history, especially the history of the English-speaking world, where all of the United States, above his knowledge was extraordinary. The joint editors of the magazine were Alan Hodge and Peter Quennell, that renowned man of letters, whose name I had strongly urged upon Brendan. For over twenty-five years they were to share a room together, complementing one another admirably and producing a most attractive if financially not very rewarding magazine, which achieved a monthly sale of over 30,000 without any yielding to the temptation to popularize his contents. A large part of the credit for the success of the magazine was in fact due to Robert Hartling, now the editor of House & Garden, who designed the typography and layout for us, as well as helping with various of the typographical problems. He was a real original. For a while he and I became good friends, although we drifted apart when our excuse for meeting was gone. I well remember his most attractive wife with her prematurely grey hair, whom he told me he had first seen on a bus and followed her to her home after she had alighted, a true romance which really worked.

Finally there was The Economist, by far the most successful of the investments made by Brendan when he first formed his group.



On 24 September 1957 Oliver Poole, who at that time was joint managing director of Pearsons, was also appointed to represent the new controlling shareholder, and from my point of view, and I hope from theirs, a very satisfying relationship developed. Oliver was in fact already a friendly acquaintance of mine. We had sat together on the board of the Old Vic, although he was a member for a long while, between 1948 and 1963, while I only served for about five years from 1955. My own contribution was I fear very insignificant. However, I much enjoyed the jovial chairmanship of Sir Bronson Albery, a real grand old man of the theatre, and I was filled with admiration for the artistic

Two other compelling reasons for my not making a break with the FT and its various associated interests appeared in the course of 1957. First was the illness of John Waverley, the chairman of the Royal Opera House. Throughout much of the year I had to take the chair at meetings, and as I hope I describe later in the book this was by no means a sinecure. To uproot myself and start an entirely new business career at just the same time would have been very difficult.

Then in the autumn my father fell ill, and on November 22 he died. At the time I suffered seriously from a sense of guilt that I had not spent more time with him, and had not done more to ease the lonely state in which, since the death of my stepmother Olive, 10 years previously, he had found himself. However, he had developed a very full life of his own as Chairman of Committees in the House of Lords; and he had also resumed many of his old friendships dating from before the time of his marriage to Olive, for during the 25 years that he was with her it was surprising how few people he wished to see despite his naturally gregarious nature. Yet perhaps my sense of guilt, an affliction from which for one reason or another I chronically suffer, was not as much justified as I then believed; for among my father's papers was a sealed envelope, addressed to me and marked to be opened after his death, containing a letter the text of which I reproduce, not in order to show myself as an exemplary son, because that I

continued on page 8



















Weekend

## SHOP AROUND

Sheila Black

● I am delighted with a new car mirror, "struck" to my old interior rear-view mirror by means of strong stretch bands. The shiny new Panamirror gives me a wide rear view in the central, wide part of it and adds a bonus of the side views through my side windows on the extremities. It took a little time to get used to it and one must learn to use the centre and the ends separately, but it is completely wiped out any blind spots. Mark you, I had a wig mirror in any case so that my sides were not blind but I do believe is not done by other British makers of cuddly toys. Their methods ensure that the toys keep their shape and softness even when washed and tumble dried.

It has another plus in that it gives you the essential extra all-

round vision for right-hand drive cars used on foreign roads where driving on the right can rob you of awareness in some circumstances and it needs no refocusing as the move from interior mirror to wing mirror sometimes does. In effect, Panamirror gives something like a 92-degree angle of vision as compared with an average of something like 37 degrees of the standard 8-inch mirror since you get 42 degrees in the centre section and 25 on each end that curves to show the car's sides. Made by Combined Optical Instruments, it can be bought for £3.50 from Tavistock Trading, 42 Tavistock Street, London WC2R 7PB. Endorsed by the AA, selected for the Design Centre, it was in *Motor* magazine's top ten awards in 1975.

You can also buy a map reading magnifier from Tavistock. It is a magnifier moulded as a single piece incorporating lens, frame and handle so that it stands up to being dropped in the car, shoved into glove compartments, anything. In fact, a good accessory for any room in the house besides the car and it sells with a cord to go round the neck so that it lies in the lap or above it, leaving hands free—the cord is optional and the magnifier looks fine without it. The 96 mm lens magnifies 1.8 times, almost doubling the map or print size and it looks like clear Perspex in a slightly pearly Perspex frame. Much recommended, the Oro DP costs £3.50 complete directly from Tavistock.

● Mrs McCarthy writes to suggest that, in the travel bag recommended last week, there should always be those impregnated cleaning tissues for face and hands like Stay Fresh. Agreed, and may I add soap leaves? Crabtree and Evelyn do soapleaves in jasmine, sandalwood or rose. 10 to a pack costing 45p. Their toiletries are also good, very lemony, at 85p for 10 sachets at most Crabtree and Evelyn stockists (or write to the firm at 24-25 New Bond Street, London, W1 for your nearest). To others who suggested

ingredients for the emergency or standby travel bag, my thanks and my assurance that the only reason for not publishing a full list is that every one has different needs and wants, to say nothing of different priorities. It was not my intention to list the contents, only to suggest that the time to pack this bag of essentials is when you are concentrating and well in advance so that afterthoughts can be added to the list before you leave rather than, infuriatingly, when it is too late.

● Canned fruits for Sangria or even Pimms? Maybe, as long as they are freeze-dried to have some fruity flavour without that syrupy taste and consistency. At Jackson's of Piccadilly, the cans of Blanchard Lyophilise "Mixed Fruit Base" contain pieces of orange, apple, apricot, banana and strawberry with some fruit sugar and lemony essences. It is not bad at all for emergencies and it is rather cheaper than cutting up your own fresh fruits but it lacks colour and sharpness, both of which add so much to festive or summer drinks. At 95p per can (add 20p postage if by mail) it is a good standby but honestly not as good as the genuine article. From all branches of Jackson's but by post from 172 Piccadilly, London W1.

On the subject of summer drinks I would like to repeat myself and to mention yet again the really graceful, useful elegant glass pitchers I wrote of recently. With wide base and curving sides rising to a narrow neck, these pitchers have silver-plated neck bands and handles with a raised, patterned finish. The silver-plated lid, which is scooped for easy but safe pouring, can be screwed on to a central cylinder which is then suspended inside the pitcher, right to its base, to keep contents hot or cold. Fill the cylinder with ice cubes or with hot water. I mention it again because I have found it so useful that I failed to do it justice the first time. It is much admired and it stands about 9½ inches tall and holds three

pints without the central cylinder, but a little more than pints with it and it looks either way. Versatile and at £13.95 inclusive of Howlett (Dispatching), 28, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire.

Here again by demand is Harbenware's introduced Compact Set of stewpans (5, 6 and 7 inch oetier) with lids, solid matched frypan that detachable handle so that frypan and stewpan combine to make the base lid of a roaster/casseroles, stick insides, and useful as inexpensive for £9.67, paid from Harbenware, 44 Hanover Mills, Fitzroy, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire.



● Alresford Crafts make some of the most appealing and endearing toys I have ever seen. Their designs have originality and a nice sense of whimsy, but they are also practical and hygienic people who "vaid" their own virgin polyester fillings in a way that I believe is not done by other British makers of cuddly toys. Their methods ensure that the toys keep their shape and softness even when washed and tumble dried.

Alresford is run by John and Margaret Jones, who started the business by their water mill seven years ago, doubled their sales annually and now sell some £500,000 worth abroad on their established reputation for quality. Margaret designs while John

runs the business side, and their sense of what children really love is one of their greatest assets. One of their most recent lines is a baby doll in fine English bone china, like the dolls of the past with rosy cheeks, round eyes, and curl in the middle of the forehead. In black or white, these baby dolls wear long-flowing robes like christening robes, petticoat and christening bunnets. The bodies, as in Victorian times, are of cloth with bone china hands and feet and they are selling well despite a price of about £27.

A father, mother and baby family of teddy bears is about £10, and they look charming in gingham and denim. A red-brown fox is £11.50 and finds a

suitable companion in the white Arctic fox who looks rather glamorous and anything but cunning (also £11.50). A black Labrador puppy (about £11) is somehow gangling, awkward and unco-ordinated, as puppies are despite being a more or less inanimate cuddly toy.

I think the favourite in my office and among those who came in to see before he went off to be photographed was the white Polar Bear, a big fellow about 30 inches long. He and his companion, a brown Siberian bear cub, are different from almost any cuddly toy you may find. They are really floppy, youthful-looking and gentle and good value even at £15 for the polar bear.

Any animal with clothes can be easily

dressed and undressed. All are washable, all have machine-sewn, hand-finished eyes for as much safety as possible and all are filled with the soft polyester. The range includes pigs (black or white and delightfully dressed), rabbits, baby seals, beavers, otters, elephants, badgers, cats and wild cats as well as those I have mentioned. A colourful, illustrated leaflet, with names of local stockists, will be sent for a 9p stamp, but please remember to enclose your address. Many readers forget and the company has to wait for an irate "where is my leaflet?" letter to be able to give the service they wanted to give in the first place. The address is Alresford Crafts, The Town Mill, Alresford, Hampshire (0962 73 2689; 3953).



## Why don't they?

● Why don't they make dry, matt lipsticks? Mrs Persephone of London wants to know. She wants nothing glossy, glossy, lustrous, shiny or creamy. She just wants something that stays on long enough to allow her to eat a biscuit or finish a gin and tonic. In fact, she saved the tiny stumps of her Dior lipsticks from 1973 because they stayed smooth, never cracked, and stayed on. The stumps are now kept for times of crisis or jubilation. "I like that—it is true that we need the same tonics for both situations."

Now the trouble with all cosmetics is that they have to be applied to human skin, which reacts in thousands of different ways so that what works on one will fail on another. But anyone with Mrs P's problem might like to try Rimmel's new Super Glossy Lip Colour with automatic applicator. It is more or less painted on and costs only 78p. What looks like a felt-tipped applicator is fitted to the screw top and rests in a narrow bottle in which is the lip colour formula (rather like the eyelash colour brushes on sticks). Lay it on as though painting. It feels greasy and I find it worth blotting with a tissue, but the colour is lasting well as far as I am concerned. The colours are modern, young colours, and there is a good display at most Rimmel stockists. There is also Lip-Cote, a protective paint which some think marvellous but others find a bit drying and tautening—not by Rimmel—but at many chemists.

Oddly, Rimmel is the answer to a "why don't they?" from Mrs Churchill of Kingston upon Thames. She is hunting for the old-fashioned cake mascaras on which she used to spit and which, she says, still give her lashes more "body" than any of the modern

colourants. Also, the cake mascara is easy to wash off without staining all the skin around the eyes and actually survives swimming pools. Why don't they start designing labels so that the directions for use are legible and not in the smallest-possible type size of all on the label? Neither Mrs P nor her friends can read directions easily, it is all. That is often true but, if you know the countless laws and regulations surrounding the labelling of practically everything you buy, your heart would go out to pack designers. The quantity or weight of the contents has to be a certain minimum size and the other comparative sizes are all stipulated to comply with anything from trade description to food and drug or other health and safety Acts.

Oddly, there are fewer laws demanding that directions for use be large and clear than there are governing practically every other word on the pack. My own solution, adopted since I had to wear glasses for reading, is to keep a magnifying glass in every room in the house, including the kitchen and bathroom. It is a fairly costly outlay but the magnifiers do not need to be wonderfully scientific or expensive and some can be downright cheap. I have an elegant one by my bedside but the rest are plain and practical. One tip—do get large ones. The smaller ones are irritating when you want to read a whole label or television programme at once to take everything in. Anyone with long sight should try it and I am sure many others would also find it useful. One's glasses are always upstairs, in the handbag in the other room, anywhere but in the place you need them. I recommend the Oro DP mirror, of which there are further details together with information about a panoramic-vision car mirror (see above).

● Last week I published a readers' plea for help—she was one of five who had written to ask where they could buy brass weights for their old reproduction kitchen scales. This week about 30 readers have rushed to her help and mine, since I had not found time to track down such weights myself in the few days since returning from holiday.

Weights, though not in brass, are at Habitat, branches nationwide; Divertimenti, 68 Marylebone Lane, London, W1, who will mail order (01-935 0689); Harrods; David Mellor, 4 Sloane Square, London, SW1, who also mail (01-730 4259); Edwin Preston, Jenner Street, Wolverhampton; F. J. Thornton, Viking Works, Greenstead Road, Colchester; George Henry Lee (a John Lewis branch), Bassett Street, Liverpool; and W. & T. Avery, the scales

manufacturing firm. The latter was the eventual supplier to at least half a dozen readers who between them, gave me addresses to Copper Mill Lane, London, SW17, Belgrave Gate, Leicester, Basildon and Guildford. Avery is not actually a retailer and readers found that "a little intimidating" to buy because one is going to a dispatch warehouse or commercial building, but said that Avery were very helpful once you got there. So look up the telephone books to find a branch in your area.

Two readers found the Metrication Board unhelpful but four said they got lists. The board assure us that any one writing to them at GKN House, 22 Kingsway, London, WC2, will get a list of sellers of weights, retail, wholesale and manufacturing. It is then up to readers to check on whether they will be buying brass or some other compound but I am very grateful to you all.

any lowering of standards on the ground of cost. Radio door manufacturers too often fail to brief their salesmen properly and some installations may not be safe—about 7,000 to 8,000 glass accidents hurt children at play.

The booklet is for industry, for installers and for consumers, to alert everyone to the need for knowledge, care and the specialised use of tempered and laminated glass. It is free, and interested bodies can also get posters and a colour film for educational purposes. Contact the Safer Glazing Information Service at Serdine House, 44 Osborn Street, London, NW1.

● To go with all the autumn shades of this summer's cosmetics—like sand, biscuit, cinnamon, banana or saffron—Boots are selling Sarongsters at most of their larger branches. The Sarongster is a filmy, cottony rectangle of fabric, machine bound along the edges and measuring about four by six-and-a-half feet. It costs £2.99 and is a versatile accessory since it can be tied to cover up over hiking, be a sarong, a turban or, oriental head-dress, and even a rather sexy wrap over skirt. Two sarongs in contrasting colours can be tied at the shoulders and belted with cord to give a Grecian-style dress for the cool of the evening—the sketches give some ideas. Each sarongster costs £2.99 in either saffron or terracotta colours. The cotton creases, of course, but it is cool as most synthetics or creased natural materials are not. And it is easily pressed or, if drip-dried in hot sun, needs little ironing. Packs into nothing.

● Sales are so frequently listed that you do not need me to do it again, but I should like to praise Tulleys at the corner of Fulham Road and Beaufort Street whether it is their sale-time or not.

For long a local draper of mine, this has become exclusively a furniture and home accessories shop which upholstery is sold in a wide range of fabrics. Tulleys was the first shop that I ever saw to start selling the basic, calico-covered upholstered furniture for which fitted or loose covers could be made from a range of some 5,000 different materials, in so many types of fabric, colours and patterns that there had to be something for everybody. They do not even mind if you bring your own along and they sell masses of plain calico furniture in the natural oatmeal colour, to be used thus

until the owners can afford prettier topcoats.

Their service is friendly and efficient, and their prices are good. Just now those good prices are even better so call at 289/297 Fulham Road, London, SW10 (01-352 1078).

● A short walk to the west along Fulham Road and you come to No. 241, where L'herbier de Provence has set up its first independent United Kingdom shop. I say independent because a number of its lines have already been found in Conran and some stores, but this is the first full-scale herb shop from these producers of so much that is aromatic and original. There are herbs you may never have heard of before as well as many you know, love and rarely find. They are in large sacks, rolled down like the sugar and barley sacks

once were in old-fashioned grocers' shops. The shop is fragrant as you come up and hard to leave. The produce is picked and dried in Mediterranean sun, with pesticides or chemicals to their natural scents, and are packed on site for ship while fresh from St Remi, Provence, where they have been farmed for 30 years.

They also sell teas: Sri-Lankan? is scented rose, peppermint, jasmine Orange Pekoe or green C tea is wonderful—prices from about 95p to £1.20 100 grammes.

There are also bath essences, oils, shampoos, tooth waters, face or body, essential galore with wonderful scents and smells, potpourri and a wide range of jams which include pure olive oil soap, raw, natural colours seen with honey or bitter almond or rocks of palm oil and oil of soap at about 88p and 95p. Lots of pure olive oil soap, raw, natural colours seen with honey or bitter almond or rocks of palm oil and oil of soap at about 88p and 95p.

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● Coexistence is that peaceful, beautiful Georgian warehouse in Bath where the antique and modern, the costly and the averagely priced, the lovely and the amusing, the artistic and the practical live in harmony. They cater there for the home and personal fashion, attrac-

ting male and female shoppers to their artistry and service. I have not yet had a chance to see their new warehouse in Covent Garden's Floral Street, at No 2, Conduit Buildings, but I must tell readers about it, pending my visit in case they are up for a shopping trip.

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Fred Emery

# The by-elections message that puts a question mark against October

Since about the only thing foreign leaders seem to wish to know about Britain at the moment is the date of the general election it is likely that Mr Callaghan will, after all, have to disappoint his colleagues at the big Bonn summit this weekend. Instead of nursing judicious nods and winks, it could be that on this at least they will have to return home still playing the uninformed guessing game.

For if the Prime Minister needed any encouragement to put off the day until next year he could find it in the bawzy returns of the Moss Side and Penistone by-elections. Instead of being barometers of national opinion they turned out to be like local weather forecasts: changeable and different on either side of the Pennines.

Forger all the ritual public boasts. The fact is that Labour were relieved to bang on to Moss Side as well as they did, and were discon-

certed by absenteeism of their supporters at Penistone. The Conservatives are simply irritated. They tell themselves that their Moss Side showing was good, knowing that it ought to have been better. And at Penistone it is they who are perplexed by Liberal enthusiasm which — let us not be stingy — secured a local triumph in keeping Mr David Chadwick's vote share at 21 per cent. If that does not tell Conservatives everywhere to beware taking Liberal votes as automatic prodigious returns, nothing will.

Mr David Steel is at last entitled to claim both credit and evidence that, at Penistone at least, the Lib-Lab pact did not run against him. But from all this one would still need to be a seer to make more than a superficial deduction about the outcome of a general election. The two distinct differences in "swing" away from Labour to Conservative were striking. On the Moss Side

3.5 per cent model, the general election would end up in deadlock; on the Penistone model of an 8.8 per cent swing there would be a Conservative landslide.

Of course, the summer period and the election campaign itself habitually close things up, but on this evidence an autumn election would be a gamble. Mr Callaghan, or so we were told in the week of the Royal Commission's report, is not himself a gambler; his gambling is purely political, and he has always been cautious.

The Prime Minister is also depicted as not the man to make up his mind on such paltry events as by-elections.

Until now, Government assumptions have been bordering on the conclusion that most factors, economic and political, were nicely converging to make an October election almost compelling. But that is not the message of the by-elections.

After the much pored-over progress reports from local elections, particularly favourable to Labour in North West England, and the opinion poll evidence following Mr Healey's "family budget", the favourable noises have now been stilled.

The Penistone result no longer makes it possible for the Government to talk of being on target in their planned recovery from the nadir of their fortunes in 1976. And who would argue a Prime Minister to go to the country if he thought it unlikely he could win.

So the Prime Minister's original inclination to persist in office as long as possible bears re-examination. He will certainly be encouraged by those ministers who counsel him that the voters must not be inconvenienced with an election if they are not thirsting for one. The 52 per cent turnout at Moss Side is hardly an indication of citizen passion for an election—

unless they thought it daft to be asked to vote twice within a few months. The thought of hanging on through the winter in the hope of improving party fortunes is also reinforced by those Labour Party traditionalists who are waiting for that brand new electoral register to come into force in February.

One overlooked argument in favour of Labour waiting for the register is that it would give many presently unregistered voters among the coloured community their first opportunity to vote since this year's controversy over immigration.

How likely is it? The choice of course is not entirely the Prime Minister's. The Liberals are now as good as pledged to force an election come October if Mr Callaghan tries carrying on. They might be won over by some new deal, but more time for preparation and for self doubt.

arrangement with the other minority parties?

He might try and still fail. And this was one of the scenarios in Westminster politicians' talk last week. Mr Callaghan might not call an election himself, it was suggested. But he would defy the Opposition to bring him down after the Queen's speech in a new session of Parliament. His appeal to the country would then be that the Government wanted to continue doing its best, keeping inflation down, but had been thwarted by an irresponsible Opposition.

I hazard that Mr Callaghan would prefer to appear more in command than this.

All this is very frustrating for Mrs Thatcher. She seems raring to go in the autumn and any postponement must surely let her down. A delay would give Conservatives more time for preparation and for self doubt.

One side worry for the Conservatives that emerged at Moss Side was what happened to the Irish vote? Conservatives had counted on Mr Tom Murphy, very effective candidate to have some special pull with voters. One suggestion, from Government sources, is that Tories seem to have little of how much they have seen the Irish. They and their descendants are possibly one single, and most overlooked grant group. It is suggested that Thatcher's immigration talk the nakedness of her bid for Unionist support.

## How shady tricks and a top hat made the scoop of the century

"Discuss the Eastern Question." The directive was a favourite burlesque by examiners to my youth, and was always the despair of those confronted by it, so intricate and tedious were the issues involved. To John Morley it was "that shifting, intractable and interwoven tangle of conflicting interests, rival peoples and antagonistic faiths." The *Encyclopaedia Britannica's* definition is more prosaic and elucidatory: "a contest among the European powers for control of territories in the disintegrating Ottoman Empire in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries."

That question was the background against which *The Times* brought off one of the greatest scoops in the history of the press—the publication 100 years ago of the Treaty of Berlin on the day it was being signed.

Who was responsible for the remarkable feat of journalism? How was it accomplished? The triumph belongs to Henri Georges Stefan Adolphe Oppen de Blowitz, the Paris correspondent of *The Times*.

This exceptional man whose entry into Printing House Square was rather obscure, began writing for the paper about 1872. On New Year's Eve, 1874, by a mixture of good fortune and assiduity, he obtained an interview with the Prince of Asturias, who had just been proclaimed King of Spain following the overthrow of the republican regime.

Thereafter Blowitz's position on the paper was assured, and in 1875 he became its Paris correspondent, a post he occupied for 28 years.

Unfolding the account of how he obtained the treaty is like recounting a novel by William Le Queux or Phillips Oppenheim. Blowitz's Memoirs, published posthumously in 1903, are an amalgam of fact, fantasy and high melodrama. In Berlin in June 1878, the powers of Europe with Russia and Turkey gathered in a further attempt to solve the Eastern Question. Journalists from the world's newspapers were present, each eager to snap up what scraps of news filtered through official channels, not in mention the drawing room gossip.

Into this scene appears a mysterious youth whose identity never became known. In 1877 he had sought out Blowitz and asked him for help in obtaining employment. He impressed the correspondent who tried, without success, to find him work. In January 1878 he saw Blowitz in Paris, an event day say the Memoirs, to "the intentions and deducing of the Supreme Will", a mystic interpretation occasioned by Blowitz's feeling that "I was going to make a grand fiasco in Berlin."

The outcome was that Blowitz bent the "Supreme Will" and secured a place for his friend in the entourage of one of the foreign representatives at the Berlin Congress. Having secured his "leak", Blowitz

evolved a method of passing information which was simple to the point of ludicrousness.

Every day *The Times* correspondent would have lunch and dinner at his hotel; every day so did his informant, who would hang up his hat, in the lining of which were concealed reports of the day's proceedings in the Congress. On leaving the two men would take each other's hat.

In such a situation, a novelist or playwright would intro-

duce a touch of farce. According to the memoirs that element became fact when an English colleague absconded with the incriminating hat.

The "Supreme Will" must have been hovering in the background, for on putting the hat, it dropped on his nose, and amid laughter the mistake was put right.

Blowitz's informant who had provided good copy for the correspondent, departed from

the scene as mysteriously as he entered it. *The Times* man was now left with his task of obtaining a copy of the Treaty in advance of his competitors.

At this point another shadowy figure, "a diplomatist who had always been friendly to me," came forward and promised that the Treaty would be in Blowitz's hands before the end of the Congress.

The delegates were due to sign the Treaty on Saturday,

July 13, so it was essential that Blowitz had a copy on Friday. His main problem was how to get the text telegraphed to Printing House Square.

Because the authorities at the Berlin transmitting office would have refused to pass it, Blowitz obtained an interview with the Belgian Minister in Berlin, and on the pretext that *The Times* was contemplating opening a nightly telegraphic service to and from Brussels, got the minister to write a letter ordering the postal authorities in Brussels to be ready to transmit urgently, as a test run, a long message to London.

A further ruse employed by Blowitz ensured that Bismarck would not be favouring the German journalists by giving them the Treaty before Saturday.

His plans were nearly completed, and on the Friday Blowitz saw his "friend the diplomatist," who kept his word and handed over the Treaty, with the exception of two Articles not then drawn up, and the preamble which had still to be drafted.

Blowitz, pretending great indignation at the treatment he had received from Bismarck, made preparations to leave Berlin, making sure that his rivals heard of the departure. Having sent off his colleague, Mackenzie Wallace, his secretary and the luggage to the station, Blowitz called on the Comte de Saint-Vallier, the French Ambassador in Berlin. Blowitz asked him for the text of the preamble, but the ambassador asked what value it could be without the Treaty. So he was sworn to secrecy and shown the copy. The Memoirs relate that the ambassador "turned slightly pale and seeing it" and continue: "I cannot let you copy it or give you the text... I will read it slowly and aloud. Now is the time to justify your reputation for a wonderful memory."

Blowitz was soon on the train, and dictating the preamble. Mackenzie Wallace saved it and the Treaty in his coat, the two men changed into separate compartments and by 5 am on Saturday Wallace was at the telegraph office in Brussels, where before the clerk would transmit the copy, he had to be above the letter which Blowitz had been given by the Belgian minister in Germany.

The text in French with an English translation, about 11,000 words, appeared in the second (mid-morning) edition of *The Times*, two late for copies to be received in Berlin. Nevertheless, a telegram from London arrived in Berlin "at the very hour" on July 13, 1878, when the Treaty was being signed.

That edition must have been completely sold out, for Printing House Square failed to keep even one for its files. *The Times* archives have in its content with the reprinted Treaty in the issue of July 15.

Jack Lonsdale



Blowitz of *The Times*, from *Vanity Fair* of August 29, 1885: sewing up the Treaty.

## A case of less bananas and more books

At the age of 24 Catherine Aydy wrote a book about a group of upper middle class girls going to London parties. It was at the height of the Victorian era, and the novel was called, was not destined for success. But it did not daunt its author as much as the rumour—true? apocryphal?—she never discovered—that Moravia, judging it for the Prix Formentor, dismissed it with contempt as "a sign of the moral decadence of British fiction."

Some young writers might have taken Moravia's words as praise of a sort, but they filled Catherine Aydy, a pseudonym for a travel writer on *Queen* magazine, called Emma Tennant, with despair. She stopped showing anyone her work. It was 10 years before she took *The Crack*, a slim, barely 40,000-word-long novel, a cross between satire and science fiction, to her publishers, though meanwhile she had written two 450,000 word "bad naturalist" novels, which to this day are stuffed away in drawers.

*The Crack* wouldn't have come about at all had she not met, in the winter of 1971, a group of science fiction writers, among them J. G. Ballard and Michael Moorcock, who jostled her out of a feeling that a real novelist has to aspire to Proust or Thomas Hardy. It was a revelation to her, and it broke the block. *The Crack* was swiftly followed up by another sharp, short novel, half-way between comedy and the grotesque. The best of them, *Hotel de Dream*, was runner-up for last year's *Guardian* fiction prize.

Emma Tennant is now in her early forties, a tall, slightly heavy woman who moves lightly; she has short straight hair, and a somewhat wary expression. Her terrace house off the Portobello Road shares an immense communal garden behind her private balcony of pink roses, and the room she spends most of her time in is full of books and painted white. It is from here that she edits and produces *Bananas*, the quarterly magazine she starts three years ago, and which she sold this month, fed up with "two unpaid jobs—writing and editing a magazine"—that she couldn't even combine.

Under the new arrangement she will co-edit *Bananas* with its new owner, a poet called Abigail Mosely. But it will continue exactly as it is, a rabid literary magazine, publishing mainly fiction, and no reviews "because once you let in reviews they grow and multiply and finally drive out the short stories."

She talks, rather defensively, about the pitfalls of a literary magazine that costs £12,000 a year to run (50p a copy on the



Photograph of Emma Tennant by John Lonsdale

bookstalls and a grant of £6,000 from the Arts Council, defensively because her brother is Colin Tennant, who once owned most of *Musique*, Princess Margaret's island in the West Indies, and all Tennants are assumed to be rich.

Each issue takes Emma Tennant many weeks of intensive work, commissioning, editing and preparing pieces for the printers. To write her last two novels she had to skip two numbers entirely, trusting to good luck that her readership would still be around three months later. When she missed last summer's edition because she was trying to write her new novel *The Bad Sister*, *Bananas* very probably would have folded had it not been for an anthology of its best contributions in book form, which bridged the gap.

Emma Tennant talks of books and literature with pleasure, and at great speed, with all the decisiveness and clarity of someone who has spent much time thinking about writing, both her own and other people's. She is uneasy when the conversation strays towards her own life, gathering her three children and three marriages, and family childhood in a mad mock Gothic Scottish castle on the Borders, with stone guns and garrotes, into a private corner she wishes to protect from public scrutiny.

The facts she gives out are bare: eldest daughter of an artist and a housewife, a childless solitary childhood, a college, a lurch, eating powdered eggs in the basement because of the war; to St Paul's school in London at 9; to the Louvre Art School for a year; married at 19.

The childhood part at least, after four detached and almost impersonal pieces of fiction, has now started seeping through into her work. *The Bad Sister* is the most romantic of all her books, if romantic is the word for a story of murder and possession, set at least partly in the lochs and moors of her childhood, as well as the most incomprehen-

sible. It represents a kind of a break with her past, not only for the encroachment of real life, but because, in research, both literary and real, has gone into it. Can't sit back like a painter and wait for Muse," she says. "You read Moravia, and find what happened to carry the nineteenth century, have to work as hard as were at university. The can use prose in the suits your work."

This way of working, her deeply into the the double and *The Bad*, is closely based on. *Mog's* eighteenth century, *essions of a justified*, "I get an idea, then I'm obsessed, then I read read." Her finished but unpublished novel, she describes as prose, is again about childhood "hallucinatory clarity of hood vision" and was inspired by Bruno Schulz, Polish writer who was in Warsaw in 1940.

The satire and the fa- were, Emma Tennant, one feel, safe bets; but a er has to be more ambu- She doesn't have, she says, "knack for handling a and families." The way may now have come to tal herself, within the comfo protection of research.

It should be the perfect now the burden of *Bananas* to be shared in the same. She talks about the cion of writers' and, how magazine gave her—and people she invited—a ch to meet and talk at parties has now ceased to give. *Bananas* will continue to war at least the count, other writers, while Ab- Mosely will help to provide time in which to decide to go from here.

Caroline Moorehead *The Bad Sister* by Emma Tennant will be published Gollancz on Thursday at £4. It will be reviewed on the B Page that day by Jacky Gill

## OPEN GOLF DIARY

### Dire warnings from the Kingdom of Fife

The Road Hole at St Andrews, whose image is to be found reproduced on breakfast mugs and dinner mats around the world, has been at the centre of this week's Open golf championship. It has to be said that the Kingdom of Fife is in danger of losing and has provided thousands of spectators with the most interesting watching of the week.

In this mood any attempt to annex rising far beyond the confines of the Kingdom of Fife is understood that British Transport Hotels should be playing down for the moment their plans for development of the land round their hotel which flanks the tee and fairway of that hole. The plans, which provide for the building of some 45 chalets, two squash courts and a swimming pool, have been approved by the North-East Fife District Council. The Royal Fine Arts Commission have given it their

approval on the grounds that anything likely to soften the unruly outline of the hotel will be diminishing an eyesore. But strong opposition has been voiced by townspeople, through the St Andrews Preservation Trust and by the joint guardians of the Old Course, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club.

Dire warnings have been uttered about the difficulties such a development would raise to the holding of another Open, and nightmarish promises have been raised of holidaymakers trilling back and forth across the fairways from the chalets in the beach. Such objections may in some quarters have been exaggerated—the occupants of these multi-owner-shin apartments are more likely to carry golf bags than smokes and buckets—but they have served the purpose of making the owners think again.

They were, in any case, voiced before the publication of the 24 conditions on which the Kingdom of Fife is based. These are stringent and thorough and include such details as the bagging out of washing, the disposal of refuse,

and even restrictions on sun-bathing and outdoor recreation. Opponents may object that such regulations cannot be enforced, but a good part of the conditions show respect for the golfers' sensibilities, in particular one which states that no movement of any kind in the area shall be apparent to anyone standing on the Road Hole tee.

The Royal and Ancient Club, when it sets its mind to it, show a good deal of muscle, and much will no doubt go on behind the scenes before the next step is taken in a dispute which, like so many of its kind, ranges the legal rights of business against the forces who believe they see a threat to parts of our national heritage.

**Crowd records bite the dust**

This week even such an important issue for golf has been lost sight of under a cloud of canvases from the attendant groupings and of dust from the record crowds that have swirled round the site. Mercifully St Andrews is well fed

by approach roads, even though the streets converging on the course are narrow. The huge number of cars squandering all day on the open acres beside the shore have been funnelled in and out of the city with great smoothness by traffic police working with an enthusiasm which suggests that they must be golfers to a man.

Their work this week has been studied by a delegation from Royal St George's, where the championship returns in 1981 after a long absence. Championship traffic has been spread north and south over the Tay and Forth bridges. Even visitors from abroad do not have to stay in St Andrews anymore. One American company have paid £4,000 for a castle, 30 miles from the course, during the championship. They have been regaled with such delicacies as grouse and 1966 claret and every attendant luxury for their pains, although one member of the group was heard to complain that he had been given "that Goddam pink fish for dinner last night."

The Old Course Hotel has within the city, been head of the league for prices, but some visitors have managed to attend

the Open without too great a strain on their pockets. One professional spectator and his wife who seldom miss a big event ignored the fact that most accommodation is booked months in advance. They drove up the afternoon before the first round, dropped into the Information Centre and were offered bed and breakfast at the home of a young university professor and his wife. Price: £5 a night a head, and a real Scottish breakfast to boot.

This private enterprise acts as a safety valve for the increasing pressure on accommodation at championship venues, which for the most part have never been strong in that department. If the present increase in attendance is maintained, Royal Lytham next year will find itself with special problems, and the Royal and Ancient must be conscious that they are approaching the limits of capacity.

One meets people from every walk of life—stars from other sports, in particular cricket, masters of industry, trainers of racehorses. But the most important of all this week are the past Open champions. Of the 20 of those still living all but

four were at the champions dinner to hear Henry Cotton praising the voluntary work that goes into the running of the Open, without which the prize money would never have reached its present heights. The four champions missing from St Andrews were Arthur Havers, who was not well enough to be there, Ben Hogan, Gene Sarazen, and Sam Snead.

**'Village' life is not the same**

Part of the knack of finding room for large numbers at the Open is to draw them in and then keep them away from the course by attracting them to the activities of the tented village. The motive is not really as cold-blooded as that, for the village plays an important part in getting spectators to the course early and occupying the hours before the stars go out. The number of things that can be bought or at least ordered inside the trade tent grows every year, and ranges from cars or carpets to souvenir pictures and golfing trips to Bangkok.

Each year the connection between some stalls and golf becomes more remote and one exhibitor of graphite-shafted clubs from San Diego was mourning the absence of the country fair atmosphere, which existed when his first started coming. He used to know the other stallholders by name, saunter over and take a cup of coffee with them. Now all that has changed. Wouldnt sweaters still sell like hot cakes, but the crowd is narrower, life within is earnest and at times claustrophobic.

Still, I am sorry the Band Street hatters are not there—in this year—I would like to have recommended them to me or two younger golfers.

The Californian's view was echoed by Mr George Blumberg, a South African golfing philanthropist, who with his wife is a regular visitor to world championships. His first one in Britain was 1938, "a pleasant, words, consisting largely of club professional, for whom the presence of Thompson or de Vicenzo was something of an event."

what odds are you offering on the implementation of the Rothchild Report?

Peter Ryde





## MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS

When the leaders of the major industrial countries committed themselves to the summit meeting in Bonn this week-end, it was in the hope that the event would force a collective act of political will to solve the deep problems facing them, individually and collectively. As the meeting has come closer, it is clear that the major preoccupation has become to avoid the damaging impression that the summit has been a failure.

It is obvious from the interviews that the major participants have been giving over the last week that they themselves are concerned to reduce any excessive expectations that would certainly be disappointed. Last time they met in London they committed themselves to economic performances and other policy actions that have been conspicuously honoured more in the breach than in the observance.

It is, therefore, essential that the Bonn summit should not pretend to more than it can achieve. If it were to do so, the damage to the cohesion and credibility of the western industrial system would be dramatic. The task of the statesmen in Bonn this week-end is in fact a reversal of the normal pattern of such summit meetings.

Traditionally, Prime Ministers, Presidents and Chancellors meet to put the final stamp of approval and authority on plans and proposals that have been worked out in detail by their staffs in advance. In this case the basic elements of those plans have been conspicuously failed to mature in the weeks of preparation. The United States has failed to convince its partners that it is following policies that will restore stability to the dollar. In particular, because of his extreme Congressional weakness, President Carter has failed to make any significant progress on his critical energy conservation programme.

At the same time, the major

surplus countries of the system, notably Japan and West Germany, have failed to convince their partners that they will, or can, take action to bring the international balance of payments back into better equilibrium. The reverse of this coin is that there is no sign that other major industrial countries will be able to provide the stimulus for the continued growth of the industrial system as a whole, a role that has been played for the past three years by the United States, at the expense of the dollar in the exchange markets.

The danger throughout has been that, in conditions of world economic stagnation and foreign exchange instability, there would be a sudden and uncontrollable growth of self-defeating protectionism, led by countries like the United States and the United Kingdom. It was indeed precisely to avoid this concerted downward spiral of events that the Western leaders undertook the whole summit exercise.

The trade negotiations, conducted in Geneva, were placed deliberately under the constraint of having to produce constructive results in time for the Bonn summit. For the past several weeks it has been clear that this timetable would not be met. For the past few days it has at times looked as if the outcome of the trade negotiations would be a disaster, in the sense that it would have to be admitted, in public, that even agreement on broad principles could not be reached. The worst has been averted, for the "framework of understanding" concluded this week in Geneva at least holds out the hope that, with good will and political commitment, there can be an orderly continuation of a reasonably open world trading system.

The Geneva negotiations, however, will have to set the pattern for Bonn. Since there has not been sufficient agreement, action and preparation to enable the heads of government to endorse

a concrete programme of action, the requirement is that the meetings should produce a sufficient framework of understanding for the process of cooperation and understanding to continue after the summit has ended. The danger is that there should be insufficient such understanding and that the text will then be spent in mutual recrimination and in basking the slide into self-defeating protectionism.

Above all, one issue has been deliberately excluded from the summit agenda by the United States, namely positive action to deal with the instability of the dollar. The present international monetary system is unstable, largely because it contains more dollars than the world wants or needs. The reserve and trading role of the dollar is now grossly excessive in relation to the size of the United States economy. In a sense the United States as a result is experiencing the former problems of the United Kingdom with the international reserve role of sterling, but on a much larger scale.

Successful United States governments have declined to face this problem squarely. They have preferred a policy of benign neglect, the effect of which has been to force the revaluation of other, stronger currencies as the dollar sank. The domestic political reasons why such a policy has been followed are clear enough. It is, however, an illusion to think that the problem can be dealt with by being ignored. If his fellow heads of government can convince President Carter in the margins of the Bonn summit that the dollar problem must be tackled directly, sooner or later, and that all the other problems of growth, currency stability and protectionism are intimately bound up with it, then the summit will have achieved more than will ever be expressed in the final, necessarily bland and defensive communiqué next Monday.

## Effects of cut in Budget deficit

From Mr Tim Congdon  
Sir, Mr Wynne Godley's letter of July 10, in reply to your leader of July 3, is disappointing. It fails to face the central argument of your leader—that the big cut in the Budget deficit between the 1976-77 and 1977-78 financial years, which The Times recommended in September 1976 and did in fact take place, has had none of the catastrophic effects on output and employment which Mr Godley and your other critics predicted. It therefore does not properly discuss the real question at issue in this debate, whether reductions in public expenditure and tax increases have the adverse repercussions on economic activity which are conventionally attributed to them.

There is no doubt that fiscal policy has "tightened" considerably last year. (Some might prefer to say it became more responsible, but that is by the way.) The public sector borrowing requirement fell to £5,750 in the 1977-78 financial year from £8,400 in 1976-77. Mr Godley is correct in pointing out that about £1 billion was accounted for by financial transactions, with no impact on real demand, but this represents only one-third of the reduction.

More pertinently, the PSBR in 1977-78 would have been about £4,500 had it not been for Mr Healey's £1 billion income tax cut towards the end of the financial year, which became effective in the final quarter. In 1977-78, the PSBR was running at an annual rate of £4 billion, compared with £9 billion in the second quarter of 1976 when The Times wrote its original leader. Indeed, the figures match your recommendation almost exactly.

According to Mr Godley, this should have led to an intensification of the recession and large-scale unemployment. But, on the contrary, the progressive decline in the PSBR was accompanied by growing optimism about the outlook for domestic demand. The jobsless total has declined in the past 12 months and there are quite definite signs of a recovery in output. Mr Godley's prognosis could not have been more wrong.

Mr Godley's refusal to mention or analyse these facts is disconcerting. But his claim that The Times has given no hint of the prospect of recovery might conceivably take place, even in some theoretical long term, after cuts in the Budget deficit is still more unsatisfactory. The claim is incorrect. In his article on November 11 1976, "Ask a reasonable question . . .", which formed an important part of the earlier controversy, Mr Peter Jay, then Economics Editor of The Times, argued that a lower Budget deficit would permit lower interest rates, stimulate private sector expenditure and thereby offset the weakening in the public sector's demands on the economy's resources.

This is precisely what has happened. Minimum Lending Rate dropped to 8 per cent in October last year (from 15 per cent in November 1976) and stayed at 7 per cent or less until April this year. Interest rate-sensitive consumer demand has been powerfully affected, as evidenced by the buoyant housing market, the 34 per cent rise in car sales in the past 12 months and much increased spending on consumer durables.

Another, strong reflationary mechanism was the rise in the exchange rate in the second half of last year. It moderated inflation and contributed to the increase in real wages, which is now being reflected in higher consumption. There is little doubt that the restoration of a degree of stability to Britain's financial position, through determined control of the money supply and PSBR, was an essential condition for the appreciation of sterling.

Mr Godley seems to have learnt nothing from Britain's economic experiences in the 1970s. This is a pity, as his counsels continue to be taken seriously by many economists in the policy-making establishment. The Treasury One must hope that in future proposals for return to responsible financial policies, such as those made by The Times in September 1976, will not receive cavalier and dismissive treatment at their hands or Mr Godley's.

Yours sincerely,  
TIM CONGDON,  
Economist, L. Messel & Co.,  
Winchester House,  
100 Old Broad Street, EC2.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Tolerance between Churches

From the Chancellor of Clitchester Cathedral  
Sir, By now we are used to the political and Roman outbursts of the Reverend Ian Paisley, which in any other context than the given tragedy of Northern Ireland we would dismiss as comically absurd. Some of his ranting for Anglicans to be lectured on the correct interpretation of the 39 Articles by dissenting Presbyterians, but even more humiliating to have to read an anti-Roman tract from a priest of the Church of England, the Reverend Roger L. Roberts (July 6), who seems to represent an old isolationist high and dry Anglicanism which many of us had assumed to be on its way out.

"Triumphalism" is a word that seems to have come into fashion (or even into existence) with the Second Vatican Council and has been used by Roman Catholics to denounce arrogant and superior attitudes towards non-Catholics prevalent in their own Church. Mr Roberts has clearly demonstrated that there is such a thing as Anglican triumphalism and that is as unlovely, a phenomenon as its Roman counterpart. He will not, I hope, deter his fellow Anglicans from ardently seeking reconciliation between Canterbury and Rome by his attempt to dismiss and misrepresent that quest as "Anglican flirtation with Roman Catholicism".

Yours sincerely,  
ROGER CREEMACRE,  
Vicar, Clitchester,  
West Sussex.  
July 7.

From Sir Charles Taylor  
Sir, I read Lord Hall's splendid letter (July 7) with admiration and some sadness. My wife divorced her first husband in the early 1930s, and she and I were married on May 20, 1936. As we were very anxious to be married in an Anglican church, if it were possible, I wrote to the late Canon Gekie-Cobb at St Ethelburga's-within-Bishopsgate, and asked him if he would be agreeable to conduct the ceremony in his church. After a talk with both my wife and myself, he agreed to break the "rules" and do this, and we remember the day with joy.

On May 20, 1976, we had our 40th Wedding Anniversary and we both wanted a short service of thanksgiving (to be attended only by very close friends, our relations and those of our four children and eight grandchildren who were in

England at the time) at St Ethelburga's. But the present incumbent refused to allow his church to be used by someone "who had been implicated in divorce proceedings", even though we were married in this same church over 40 years ago. Someone said to me at the time, "It seems a pity to turn away, these days, those who want to go to church"; and of course my wife and I were distressed by the decision of the Vicar. We were able to hold our thanksgiving service, however, at another church in the vicinity, with the good will of the Bishop of London and the Rector of St Mary's Hill. We sang God Save the Queen and prayed for Parliament, and our eldest son read the lesson, but, although it was a very happy occasion, we should have preferred to have offered our thanksgivings in our own church where we had been married. God bless the Prince of Wales, Lord Hall'sham and Christian Charity.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,  
CHARLES TAYLOR,  
52 Westminster Mansions,  
1 Little Smith Street, SW1.  
July 12.

From Mr R. Jakubowicz  
Sir, When Dr Runcie writes, concerning recent squabbles among Christians, that "those who will believe nonsense must expect awkward consequences" (Letters, July 11) it seems that he considers so much disagreement between the various creeds as a manifestation of faulty philosophy. Perhaps we should rather bear in mind the following alternative maxim, which is due to another atheist, Niels Bohr: "The opposite of a correct statement is in fact incorrect statement but the opposite of a profound truth may well be another profound truth." Yours faithfully,  
H. JAKUBOWICZ,  
Department of Physics and Astronomy,  
University College London,  
Gower Street, WC1.

From Mr Robert Harling  
Sir, Controversies involving so-called Christians always generate such gruesome and ugly attitudes that an unbeliever can only thank his pagan stars that he's well out of such venom and spite.  
ROBERT HARLING,  
Four, 21 Crane Court,  
Fleet Street, EC4.

### Soviet justice

From Mrs Elizabeth Young  
Sir, A Tass commentary on the Moscow trials on July 9 has complained that "certain circles" in the West have been attempting to "put pressure on the courts", an activity which in the West is "including" as "prosecution". Indeed it is. But it may be worth looking at Soviet practice, as described by Lev Nikolayevich Smirnov, Chairman of the USSR Supreme Court, in interviews broadcast by the Moscow Home Service, on June 16 and June 20, and monitored by the BBC.

"At all stages of a criminal trial the accused or defendant is granted and guaranteed an extensive practice of rights of defence. An important condition of this is the strict observance of judicial norms and respect for criminal law procedure. The study of the circumstances of the crime has shown that this is still not accepted . . . The Courts must strictly to observe the legal rights of the accused or defendant on all rounds, full, and objective investigation of the materials of the case and the revelation of both circumstances that are incriminating and also those tending to prove the innocence of the accused or defendant, as well as those extenuating his guilt . . . The slanderers of Soviet justice say that according to our criminal procedure, the defence of legally convicted persons is a crime. This is a gross distortion of the right of defence since it is his obligation to prove his innocence. In fact there is nothing of the sort, neither in the Soviet law nor in Soviet court practice . . . It is very important that the constitutional principle be observed, according to which the defendant or accused is considered not guilty until his guilt is proved in the way laid down by the law and until his conviction is confirmed by the court. This in fact reproduces the constitutional norm laid down in Article 160 and Article 11 of the Human Rights Declaration and also by the Human Rights Treaty. Moreover, the plenum of the USSR Supreme Court stated that in this connexion it was impermissible to oblige the defendant or accused to prove his innocence . . . The plenum also resolved that a guilty verdict could not be based on the presumption of guilt. All the doubts which

cannot be removed are interpreted in favour of the defendant or accused."

Another member of the Supreme Court, Gavril Yelminov, interviewed on June 12 (also on the Moscow Home Service), after mentioning the "extensive range of rights guaranteed to the accused" including "the right of presumption of innocence", claimed that "The Courts have begun to violate the norms of a criminal trial less often . . . Nevertheless, in certain cases, particular norms of the criminal judicial legislation have been infringed . . . It is for this reason that Article 160 of the Basic Principles of Criminal Court Procedure of the USSR and of the Union Republics lays it down as one of the main tasks of the administration of justice to see that everyone who commits a crime receives just punishment and that not one innocent person is prosecuted and convicted" (Here Mr Yelminov confirms our suspicion that guilt or innocence are commonly established before prosecution.)

Mr Smirnov, in his June 20 interview, pointed out that the "defence of the accused" is "a matter of course" and should be an important means of establishing the objective truth. But then, having "stressed that it was our country and other socialist countries, and only they, which carried high the banner of real humanism and the defence of the genuine and effective defence of the citizen's rights", he let the cat—to which we in the West take such strong objection—out of the bag.

At the same time it should obviously be noted that socialist humanism cannot and does not have anything in common with lax sentimentality towards persons who impair the use of socialist construction. In that case Soviet courts have to enforce all the measures required for punishment when the matter in question is the struggle against dangerous criminals, who have committed grave crimes . . . Nor for them the "lax sentimentality" of "real humanism and legality" or of "objective truth". Mr Smirnov and Mr Yelminov have now our point, I think.

Yours etc,  
ELIZABETH YOUNG,  
100 Bayswater Road, W2.

### Realities of terrorism

From Mrs Jillian Becker  
Sir, In her article of May 26, "Facing up to the realities of terrorism", Caroline Moorehead asserts that "since 1970 40 Red Army Faction members have spent up to three years in solitary confinement".

This comes as a surprise to me. As far as I could discover in my researches into the conditions of imprisonment of the Red Army Faction members, the facts are otherwise. A few of them, arrested in 1972, were kept in single cells by no means in isolation since they had family visits and a great number of visits from lawyers—for a matter of some months, not years. After that they were kept grouped together in conditions of exceptional privilege: so exceptional that the word "luxurious" would not be entirely inappropriate to describe them. In my book *Hitler's Children* I supply details to substantiate this. I might therefore request, Sir, that Caroline Moorehead supply the names of the 40 persons held "in solitary confinement for up to three years", the dates of their imprisonment, the names of the prisons, and any other relevant details, to substantiate her surprising allegation.

Yours sincerely,  
JILLIAN BECKER,  
144 Hemmings Road,  
Islington, N1.

### The Hirsch collection

From Mr Christopher Norris  
Sir, Having known the man and enjoyed the great hospitality of the late Robert von Hirsch over nearly forty years, I must express my regret that your paper should have printed a commentary upon him, his collection, and upon Sotheby's sale by the somewhat misinformed New York dealer who presumed to write this (July 12).

Few people would have been more astonished and sometimes more critical than von Hirsch at the prices realised at this sale. He was not responsible for these, and I do not remember any occasion when his guests thought of "paying court", or of more than gratefully enjoying this quiet man, his things, his cook, his car, and his abundant hospitality. Up to a very few years before his death he hoped that his collection would remain undisputed. He was, of course, in relations with the Swiss civic authorities had been more perfect—no sale would have taken place. The house of every great and real collector is charged with his personality, and every object that he possesses, good or bad, reflects this. In gratitude for this, I am, Sir, Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER NORRIS,  
The Athenaeum,  
Folgate Road, SW1.  
July 12.

## Personal liberty in a market economy

From the Leader of the Liberal Party

Sir, May I be permitted a brief reply to Professor Hayslett's diatribe (July 11)? I find disturbing his placing of more emphasis on choice in the market place than choice in the ballot box, and positively abhorrent his view that "free choice" which I suppose he means in the market place can exist under a dictatorship.

The seizure of power by a minority appears to be the current theme of the Conservative Party, although they criticized (rightly) the present Government's claim to a mandate based on 39 per cent of the votes.

The academic comforts of Virginia or Freiburg cloister shelter, Professor Hayslett from the down-to-earth conditions of life enjoyed by too many of our citizens, for whom "liberty" is at present but a sham unresolvable condition. Note otherwise could he criticize my assertion that we have not yet created conditions of liberty for all our citizens.

I draw two conclusions from his letter. First, that politics is too serious a business to be left to economists. Second, since he is so used to see the leadership of a once great Conservative Party taking advice from a man of such opinions.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID STEEL,  
House of Commons.

### Saving a museum interior

From Professor D. T. Donovan

Sir, The proposal to demolish three of the original exhibition galleries of the Natural History Museum, as proposed by the Chairman of the Victorian Society in your issue of May 24, and last Tuesday you reported objections by the GLC historic buildings committee and others. It is important that the proposal be seen in relation to the museum's new exhibition scheme, which arouses concern because of the lack of any apparent policy for the use of the galleries.

The galleries were designed by Alfred Waterhouse on a scale which would be difficult to emulate under today's economic circumstances. They were filled with exhibits showing the whole of nature in a systematic and static way which the Trustees regard as no longer appropriate. The Trustees have proposed (Report for 1972-74, published 1975, page 75) to replace them with a new, much larger exhibition "designed to reflect all aspects of modern biology". The Report goes on to develop the plan in some detail, but makes no mention of the physical housing of the new exhibition. It appears from subsequent developments that the Trustees intend to demolish the galleries with the building they have inherited.

The current proposal to demolish is the logical outcome of the recent reorganization in which original interiors have been played down (as with Fossil Mammals) or completely destroyed (as with Human Biology). As a result of these attempts to adapt the galleries for purposes for which they were not designed the layout of the exhibition is rapidly becoming a mess.

One may therefore ask whether the present policy should not be reversed, the original galleries restored to use, and new developments which are unsuited to them put outside the original building. Continuation of the present policy will result in the loss to the public of some of London's finest museum interiors.

Yours faithfully,  
D. T. DONOVAN,  
Department of Geology,  
University College London,  
Gower Street, WC1.

### A male principal

From Mrs B. Kennedy-Cooke

Sir, As one of the first Lady Margaret Hall students to matriculate and to become a real undergraduate wearing the then prizes and now apparently despised cap and gown, I should like to express my agreement with the letter in today's paper (July 11) from Dr D. J. Sharp. It does indeed seem that the old-fashioned Fellows should have chosen a man to follow so many distinguished women scholars. Can it be that they thought only a man could control expectedly unruly male undergraduates? For whatever reason, it seems to be a thoroughly rearguard step.

Yours faithfully,  
A. R. KENNEDY-COOKE,  
LMH 1918-21,  
Little Thorne Field,  
Cuckfield Road,  
West Wittering, Sussex.

### Having

From Dr G. H. Thomson

Sir, The having balance of Canada (leading, July 7) I am sorry to see you perpetrating the Sassenach misuse of the word "having". To "have" means to talk wildly in a nonsensical fashion, quite akin to "blether". The word which means considering in an indecisive manner is "swither".

Yours faithfully,  
G. H. THOMSON,  
9 Fairview Terrace,  
Reddingmuirhead,  
Stirlingshire.

## PUBLIC CONFIDENCE—TEST OF THE NEW EXAM

Reform of the secondary school examination system comes a step nearer with the publication of the report of Sir James Waddell's steering committee. It was set up by Mrs Williams to make sense of the unsatisfactory submission which she had received from the Schools Council. This report clearly reflects the present view of the Department of Education and Science (which was strongly represented on the steering committee) and if the Labour Party remains in power is likely to be put into operation.

Getting rid of two separate sets of examinations at 16 plus by merging O levels and CSE into a single system is seen—by supporters and opponents alike—as the logical outcome of the comprehensive school. It does not fit the ethos or the organization of the comprehensive school to divide pupils at the end of the third year into a high prestige O level group and a low prestige CSE group. Attempts have been made to try to provide for overlap by establishing the top grade of CSE as equivalent to a GCE pass grade, and by inventing lower grades of GCE below the former pass level. But the result is a mess: something has to be done and the scheme now put forward has the merit of matching the needs of the schools as they are developing in a comprehensive system.

What is of overriding importance is that a reformed examination system must, at all costs, retain public confidence. This is clearly recognized by the Committee, which had first of all to be satisfied that the technical difficulties inherent in the establishment of a single system could be overcome. It is made clear that in some subjects there will have to be separate papers for more and less able pupils—even if this does mean pre-selecting different groups—in order to make sure that the full range of ability in subjects like physics and chemistry, mathematics, and modern languages is adequately covered. Even so, they conclude that over much of the curriculum, it will be possible to manage with common papers. The great danger is that syllabuses will be trimmed to suit the examiners' convenience and mass examination techniques, like multiple choice questions, will distort teaching methods. On this score the report is less than convincing.

Much of the Waddell Committee's time was taken up with how the new system should be administered. In advocating regional groupings of the existing GSE and CSE boards—probably about four or five—so that each group consists of one or more GCE board plus two or three CSE boards, it chose the

only workable option. But there can be no doubt about the stresses and strains this will produce during the period of reorganization. And the new groupings which will emerge will be much more likely to be cockpits of teacher politics than the present highly professional GCE examining bodies. There will have to be a lot of horse-trading between the CSE and the GCE boards, and they represent very different educational traditions. Some of this horse-trading will be about standards and the relative weight to be given to external and internal examining, and this will bear directly on the vital issue of public confidence.

The examination system is the chief instrument by which public control of the curriculum is maintained and it makes sense, therefore, to give the Department of Education a major role in the reconstitution of the examining boards. A firm hand will be needed. Thereafter it will fall to the Schools Council to oversee the arrangements and lay down criteria for syllabuses and examinations. Quite rightly, it is felt that the time has come to strengthen the central direction of the examination system to make sure that in important subjects like mathematics, the syllabuses of the different boards have enough in common to command credibility.

### New Palace Yard design

From Mr James Badenoch  
Sir, Now that the redesign of New Palace Yard Westminster is complete, and its awfulness so obvious may I protest to the MPs responsible for it?

They have installed a fountain which has the appearance of a beer off from the set of *The Student Prince*. The fact that the "card-board" will eventually crumble in water is only slight consolation. In front of it, presumably in order to conceal the fountain or the organization of the site, they have planted, very close together in a sort of fairy ring, about sixty trees. No doubt they regret that this necessary screen of leaves will soon conceal a large part of the House of Commons from view.

Finally, in the centre of the fairy ring they have dug and planted a large crop of what looks like beetroot. We British know that vegetable prices are high and MPs' salaries low, but thousands of foreign tourists to the "Mother of Parliaments" may still pay us the compliment of regarding this site as inappropriate for an allotment.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES BADENOCH,  
1 Crown Office Row,  
Temple, EC4.

### National Parks future

From Mr Carol Johnson and others  
Sir, The future of our National Parks is in peril.

In 1977 an examination-in-public was conducted into the structure plan for the Peak District National Park. In the light of this examination, the Department of the Environment has now published comprehensive draft modifications to the plan which, if adopted, would generally reverse the policies determined and acted upon by the Peak Park Planning Board over the past 25 years with widely acknowledged success. A success which has twice earned the board the Council of Europe's Diploma for protected landscapes.

The effect of the proposed modifications to the plan would be to prevent the Peak Park Planning Board accomplishing the prior purpose of a National Park which is to preserve and enhance its natural beauty.

At the root of this distressing affair is the form of inquiry into the structure plan—the examination-in-public. This occupied only seven working days and failed to expose the dominant National Park issues or the prevailing community interests in them because topics and participants were pre-selected by the Department of the Environment; the general public was not allowed to make representations; no evidence was presented or subjected to cross-examination by interested parties.

All National Parks are at risk, for what is decided for the Peak District will certainly determine their fate as well. We call for support from Parliament to urge the Secretary of State for the Environment to reject the draft modifications to the Peak Park Structure Plan and to prevent the indictment of history that he was responsible for the dissolution of National Parks.

We are Sir, your obedient servants,  
CAROL JOHNSON, Chairman, Commons Open Spaces & Footpaths Preservation Society,  
J. CYRIL KERMODE, Councillor, Cottesloe Touring Club,  
Sylvia Sayer, Dartmoor Preservation Association,  
MARTIN PRICE, Friends of the Earth,  
GEOFFREY BERRY, Friends of the Lake District,  
ALAN MATTINGLY, Secretary, Ramblers Association,  
JOHN PARFITT, Chairman, Youth Hostels Association,  
Council for National Parks,  
4 Hobart Place, SW1.

### The unenforceable

From Mr Colin MacLean  
Sir, "Obedience to the Unenforceable" is the heading given in your

issue of June 28 to the Guest Column by Professor Duncan Williams. In his article, Professor Williams seems to attribute the expression to the late Sir Thomas Moulton, Principal of Aberdeen University, a man renowned for his eloquence and for the emphatic expression of his views, not least in graduation addresses.

Some of these addresses were published in 1956 in a book entitled *Speaking to Graduates*. In the graduation address dated July 3, 1958, and entitled "Obedience to the Unenforceable" Sir Thomas (on p 150) credits Lord Moulton with the expression "Civilized society depends not on compulsion but on what a great judge, Lord Moulton, called Obedience to the Unenforceable."

It was another Scottish university principal, Sir Michael Swann, who made me aware of Lord Moulton's memorable phrase when, at a university function several years ago, he quoted forcefully from the speech in which Lord Moulton spoke of "the domain of Obedience to the Unenforceable", this domain being the third of three great domains of human action—first, the domain of positive law and second, the domain of free choice.

Sir Michael was speaking at a time of some student unrest. The tone of his address was, as I remember, somewhat different from that of Sir Thomas's. Sir Michael was kind enough to give me a copy of Lord Moulton's speech: I was then Scottish editor of *The Times Educational Supplement*. I feel sure that you would wish as a paper of record to give credit where it belongs. The relevant speech by Julia Fletcher Moulton (First Baron, a judge, parliamentarian and administrator) was about 2,500 words long: it was given in the Authors' Club of London and published first in *The Atlantic Monthly* of July, 1942.

Yours sincerely,  
COLIN MACLEAN,  
1 Lygon Road,  
Edinburgh.

كسوف الامل











ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings Began, July 10. Dealings End, July 21. \$ Contango Day, July 24. Settlement Day, Aug 1  
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

**THE TIMES SHARE INDICES**  
The Times Share Indices for 14.07.73 based  
date June 2, 1964 original base date June 2,  
1960.



Personal  
Investment and  
Finance,  
Ages 18 and 19

## Trade deficit falls to £106m, but mounting imports upset hopes

David Blake  
Economics Correspondent

Britain had a trade deficit of £106m in June and the earlier deficit of a £150m current account surplus for 1978 now is all but unattainable. The overall current account is likely to end the year with only a very small plus, while visible trade continues in substantial deficit. In June there was a small current account surplus of £14m after allowing for a £10m invisible surplus. The trade figures for June, which were published yesterday, tell the story of a rising volume of imports, upsetting hopes that the current account would be about to move substantially into surplus. The June figures were an improvement on the very large deficit of £218m recorded in May, but the improvement was hardly as large as had been hoped. In the early months of this year it was possible to explain the sharp increase in the volume of imports as being caused by a rise in semi-manufactured goods of the sort which are used as part of a cash return in output at the time of the year. However, in the last two months it is clear that imports have risen on other components, with an increase of 41 per cent in the volume of such imports in the second quarter after "basic" items such as oil

are excluded. If those items are counted in, the increase is 16 per cent.

One is quite certain that manufactured imports are rising so fast, although some comfort is being taken from the fact that most of them are concentrated in the capital goods sector. This would suggest that they are not being wholly diverted to fuel a consumer boom.

At the same time as the imports are shooting ahead, the volume of exports of manufactured goods is growing only slowly, with a 1 per cent rise in the second quarter over the first.

Indeed, the only component performing really well on the volume side is raw materials, where imports (particularly oil) are falling quite sharply though perhaps not durably.

The June trade figures were affected not only by changes in volume, but also by a deterioration in the value of exports. Imports rose more and exports remained static.

The terms of trade index fell by 1.1 per cent, which worsens our trading performance now but may improve it later by making imports less competitive.

In the first half as a whole there is now estimated to have been a deficit of £11m on the current account, compared to the Treasury forecast published at the time of the June figures of £250m surplus. This was caused mostly by imports and a worse than expected invisibles balance brought about by large payments to the EEC.

### TERMS OF TRADE

Following are the unit volume numbers for visible trade seasonally adjusted, and the terms of trade index, non-seasonally adjusted, issued by the Department of Trade yesterday.

1978=100	1978=100	1978=100
Export	Import	Index
Volume	Volume	Value
1978=100	1978=100	1978=100
Q1	106.2	100.3
Q2	109.9	100.0
Q3	110.0	100.3
Q4	113.5	107.3
Q1	115.7	108.1
Q2	118.0	108.3
Q3	124.1	108.4
Q4	117.9	102.6
Q1	120.3	114.3
Q2	122.8	110.2
Q3	119.4	101.3
Q4	115.3	98.4
Q1	118.9	101.7
Q2	112.2	114.6
Q3	127.4	111.3
Q4	121.4	118.8
Q1	120.1	104.3
Q2	120.1	104.3
Q3	120.1	104.3
Q4	120.1	104.3

### UK TRADE

The following are the May trade figures seasonally adjusted and compared on a balance of payments basis with allowance for known recording errors:

Exports	Imports	Visible
£m	£m	Balance
1976	25,422	28,932
1977	32,176	33,758
Q1	7,502	8,449
Q2	7,930	8,584
Q3	8,551	8,408
Q4	8,204	8,159
Q1	8,441	9,015
Q2	8,803	8,939
1977	2,787	3,085
June	2,733	2,978
July	2,851	2,658
Aug	2,806	2,841
Oct	2,756	2,703
Nov	2,658	2,800
Dec	2,780	2,856
1978	2,623	2,961
Jan	2,869	2,948
Feb	2,829	3,108
March	2,900	3,112
April	2,877	3,095
May	2,928	3,032

r revised  
p provisional

## Third World protest over Geneva negotiations

From Melvyn Westlake  
Geneva, July 14

A large majority of the nations participating in the world trade talks here has denounced the partial agreement hammered out in intensive bargaining between the big industrial countries during the past few days.

In a strongly worded statement issued today the developing countries expressed "deep concern" and "apprehension" about the way the negotiations are being conducted.

The statement came just 24 hours after the key industrialized participants had finally reached agreement on what is officially described as a "framework of understanding".

This is the document that ministers and senior officials from the United States, Canada, Japan and the European Community will present to the seven heads of government when they meet on Sunday for the economic summit in Bonn.

It outlines the limited agreement reached in establishing a new world trading system after five years of bargaining, sketching the areas where progress has been made and revealing the issues that have to be resolved by the end of this year if the negotiations are ultimately to prove fruitful.

Today's statement issued by the developing countries, which represent three-quarters of the participants at the 100-nation negotiations, was unanimously approved at a two-hour meeting of the Group of 77, representing the Third World states.

Their spokesman, Ambassador Peter Tomic, the Yugoslav chief negotiator, claimed that the developing countries had not been consulted on the "framework of understanding" document.

He said that the document was "optimistic" and said that the Third World countries did not agree with these kinds of interim terms.

Today's statement from the developing nations said that the framework document issued by the industrialized nations "does not accurately reflect the present state of negotiations on certain key issues, such as agriculture, wheat, meat, dairy and other products".

It said that a complete and balanced assessment of the current status of the so-called "Tokyo round of trade negotiations" can only be made with the full participation of all the countries involved.

The balance sheet of the negotiations could be negative in some areas, it said.

The present status of the current negotiations caused deep concern "as regards the most important interests in the international trade of the developing countries".

However, the strong resentment and frustration now evident amongst Third World delegations has not yet reached the point where they are threatening to withdraw from the negotiations.

## Business confidence is summit aim

By Our Economics  
Correspondent

Leaders of the West's seven most powerful industrial nations meeting for the economic summit in Bonn this week and all admit that their talks can provide quick solutions to the world's problems. Instead, they hope to agree on broad declarations of principle on a range of topics, with action to follow later.

In addition, they hope to increase confidence among businesses and the public in the idea that someone is seeking to coordinate the world's economies. But no definite action is expected to emerge.

The five major subjects to be discussed will be growth without more inflation, currency stability, the developing countries, protectionism and trade, and energy.

Agreement on all these issues is likely in the sense that all will agree to the dollar as a joint communiqué.

at the end of the meeting setting out objectives.

However, there have been growing signs of friction in recent weeks as the countries taking part have sought to assert their positions in the run-up to the meeting.

The most striking example is the obvious friction which has clearly existed between the United States and its trading partners over the questions of the dollar and the payments problems facing America.

Germany, Japan and France have made it clear that they each feel the United States Administration has been much too slow to act to reduce energy imports in the face of Congressional unwillingness to implement President Carter's energy programme.

There has been considerable ill-will also over the whole attitude of the United States Government towards the dollar. The Americans are thought to

have allowed the dollar to slide in order to make their products more competitive.

Japan has argued pointedly that its own huge trade surplus is caused as much by the higher dollar price it is receiving for its exports as by a growth in their volume.

Although both France and Germany say their proposal on European currencies is designed to help the dollar, its attitude played a part in pushing it forward.

America, on the other hand, increasingly has come to feel that it is receiving the blame for all the world's economic problems. In recent weeks United States officials have pointed out that most of the deficit, estimated at \$25,000m this year, has been caused by imports of manufactured goods. They criticize Germany and Japan for not doing

enough to stimulate domestic demand.

More definite advances are likely on the issues of trade and development. The heads of the seven nations taking part (Britain, America, France, Germany, Japan, Canada, and Italy) will hear a report on the multilateral trade talks.

Patricia Clough writes from Bonn: President Carter said at a state banquet in his honour that he approached the summit "with optimism".

Together, he said, they must seek to reduce energy consumption and encourage energy exploration and production, seek a monetary system strong and flexible enough to sustain growth and bolster confidence and put an end to rising protectionist tendencies.

Earlier, after a long talk with Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, President Carter said he could detect no difference in the ultimate goals that the two men hoped to achieve.

## Germany tones down idea of quick impact

From Peter Norman  
Brussels, July 14

West Germany as the host nation has been making strenuous efforts to dampen down expectations that the summit can have a major immediate impact on the world's economic problems.

Bonn's original idea that the summit might see the emergence of an agreement, in which all parties gave and, therefore, took something while benefiting the world in general, has been pushed into the background.

This concept envisaged that the United States should reduce its oil imports, thus cutting its current account balance of payments deficit and helping to restore faith in the dollar.

In West Germany, would, in turn, reverse its restrictions and introduce another programme to stimulate domestic economic growth, despite the failure of the one previous

programmes introduced since the oil crisis, to bring growth back to the level needed to create full employment.

Japan's role would have been to ease its barriers to trade. The weak countries in the EEC, mainly France, Britain and Italy, were expected to favour protectionist measures.

According to official sources in Bonn, the package deal concept of the summit is now expected to be filled with life. How it can be filled with life when all the indications are that President Carter will come to the conference table with no new proposals on energy conservation remains unclear.

The circumstances it is hardly surprising that German government sources are resorting to the argument that the summit will be valuable simply because it takes place.

## Dr Emminger against harmonizing inflation

Frankfurt, July 14.—A wide-

European currency agreement must take into account domestic monetary stability as well as stability on foreign exchange markets, Dr Otmar Emminger, president of the West German Federal Bank, said in an interview reported today.

The inflation differences between the individual European Community members would probably mean that not all the Community countries would be able to join an expanded arrangement in the beginning of next year.

Dr Emminger said in an interview with WWD, the West German financial news service.

When asked whether an expanded agreement would lead to more inflation for West Germany, as many critics have alleged, he said that would only be the case "when individual countries do not pay attention

to the rules of the game, such as when a country tries artificially to keep an unrealistic exchange rate with the help of abundant credits".

It was important, therefore, that countries were completely agreed on the game rules and that springs of credit did not become too large, thereby making stability risks too great, Dr Emminger said.

Caroline Atkinson writes: Central bankers, who met in Basel earlier this week, all agreed that there were many obstacles to be overcome before a new zone of European currencies could be put into operation.

However, they recognized that the German and French heads of state were extremely serious in their commitment to such a zone.

German and French central bankers were much less enthusiastic than their respective heads of state about the scheme.

## Boeing gets record \$1,600m order from United Airlines

From David Cross  
Washington, July 14

United Airlines, the world's biggest air company, today announced the largest aircraft purchase in the history of civil aviation.

After a board meeting in Chicago the company said it would buy some \$1,600m worth of aircraft from the Boeing company of Seattle.

The deal was a severe setback for West European hopes for a stronger civil aviation pact, and for the European A300 Airbus being produced by a Franco-German consortium.

There are two parts to the purchase of 30 Boeing 767 wide-bodied jets at a cost of some \$1,200m, and 30 Boeing 727s of which 1,500 have been sold at a cost of \$400m.

An exhaustive technical and economic analysis over the past year proves that the 767, which incorporates the latest aviation

technology, is the best new aircraft for United's needs, Mr Richard Ferris, president and chief executive officer of United said.

The company had been examining a number of possibilities besides the Boeing and the European Airbus for its fleet of the 1980s.

It had also considered the possibility of doing without a new generation aircraft and ordering still more 727s or McDonnell Douglas DC 10s.

"But," Mr Ferris said, "this decision was made on the merits of the aircraft for meeting United's future needs and not on the basis of national source".

He went on: "Yet we are pleased that United's order will help maintain commercial aircraft as a country's number one industry, that it means only good things for employment and for this country's balance of payments".

The first 767, which will be slightly larger than the 757 in the construction of which the British hope to play a key role, is due to be delivered and in service by June, 1982.

All 30 are expected to be delivered by 1984. The 767s, which are still on the drawing board, will each seat 197 passengers.

They will be powered by two JT9D-7R jet engines manufactured by the Pratt & Whitney aircraft division of United Technologies Corporation.

Also they are expected to be nearly 35 per cent more fuel efficient per seat mile than the 747-200 they will replace.

"That means," Mr Ferris said, "that on a 1,000 mile trip, the fuel savings will be about \$6 per seat".

The order, which is as usual subject to final contract negotiations including spare engines, parts and support equipment.

Mr Ferris said that "internally generated" funds will finance a substantial portion of the order, with money for the remainder coming from United's traditional lenders.

Kenwood Owen writes: Boeing regard the go-ahead for the 767, made possible by the United Airlines order, as potentially as significant as the launch of the Boeing 707, the most successful of the early big jet airliners, in the 1950s. The concept is of a new family of commercial jets.

Initially this family will consist of the 767 and the 777, each carrying about 200 passengers (the United version of the 767 will seat 197). The 767 will be powered by two Pratt & Whitney engines, each with a thrust of 44,000lb; while the 777 will have three 33,000lb engines.

A body-width in between that of the conventional (eg 707) and wide-body (eg 747) jets has been chosen for the 767 and 777. Passengers will sit seven abreast, with two aisles.

The third new design to which Boeing are committed is the 757, a narrow-bodied, twin-engine machine which would carry 160-180 passengers.

This is the Boeing candidate for collaboration with British Aerospace.

Rolls-Royce was accused yesterday of violating international agreements in the sale of engines for use in an American's Lockheed L-1011 airliners.

Mr John Moore, President of the United States export-import bank, told a hearing in Washington of a House Ways and Means subcommittee that the deal violated the letter and spirit of agreements with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

He said that Rolls failed to demand any down payment, exceeded a 10-year maximum term for repayment and violated OECD understanding limiting local cost financing. —Reuters.

## Brussels says it is far from satisfied with tariff reduction offer made by Japanese

By Michael Harnsley  
Brussels, July 14

Despite "some very difficult elements" remaining to be resolved, a balanced and satisfactory conclusion by the end of the year to the Tokyo round of trade talks in Geneva was a "reasonable expectation", a European Economic Community negotiator said here today.

Commenting on the document issued by the major trading blocs, Sir Roy Denman, the European Commission's director-general for external relations, said agriculture, trade, subsidies and counter-tariffs duties as the most important items of unfinished business.

Sir Roy also said that the EC had made "clear" to the Japanese that "we are very far from satisfied" with their tariff reduction offer. The EEC had a list of the products that would be withdrawn from the Community's offer if they did not prove their substantiality.

Cars, on which the EEC at present levies an 11 per cent tariff, are among the items on the list, according to informed sources. They were included at the particular insistence of Britain, where Japanese car exports have, by far, the highest in the Community.

The EEC estimates that the Japanese offer on industrial tariffs amounts in real terms to a cut of only a little over 20 per cent, compared with the Community's own offer of 40 per cent. (All cuts would be phased over eight years, with a possibility of postponement of the final instalments after the fifth year.)

Although there was still no agreement on safeguards, Sir Roy said, other countries were now giving serious consideration to the EEC's demand for the right to use Article 19 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade selectively against individual exporters.

At present, Gatt signatories may use Article 19 to curb imports only if the measures taken are applied equally to all exporters of the products in question. Also, all countries affected by the curbs are accorded a right of retaliation.

Britain and France have been the forefront in arguing that it should be possible to use Article 19 only against those countries causing market disruption.

Sir Roy said that the argument in Geneva was now less about the principle of "selectivity" than about the circumstances in which it might be applied.

On agriculture, Sir Roy said that the EEC had accepted the need to define more clearly the meaning of Gatt rules governing subsidies on agricultural exports. These lay down that such subsidies must not give the exporters "more than an equitable share" of world trade in the product concerned.

## Sir Hugh Fraser fined total of £600

By Ronald Faux

Sir Hugh Fraser, the head of the House of Fraser and chairman of Scottish and Universal Investments (Suits), was fined a total of £600 at Glasgow Sheriff Court yesterday for offences under the Companies Act.

Mr Angus Grossart, both Suits' directors, were found guilty with Sir Hugh of failing to give a true and fair view of the company's affairs in the 1975 balance sheet.

Irvine Smith, Sheriff, announced his verdict on the trial, said he was not prepared to go as far as saying there had been a case of wilful suppression of a £4.23m loan to Amalgamated, a Caledonian bank, the balance sheet of which was not in commission but of omission.

The significant loan, of whose vulnerability and presence they were all aware, was not mentioned. "By so failing, they failed to take all reasonable steps to secure the presentation of a balance sheet which gave a true and fair view," the Sheriff said.

Sir Hugh was fined £100 on the balance sheet charge and £500 after pleading guilty to a restricted charge involving share deals.

Altogether six members of the Suits board were before the Sheriff. They had pleaded not guilty to the balance sheet charge.

On the second charge of failing to notify share dealings Sir Hugh pleaded guilty. Mr Forgie pleaded not guilty but was found guilty on two dealings, and fined £35. He was also fined £75 on the balance sheet charge. Mr Grossart was fined £75 on the balance sheet charge, and cleared on the share dealings.

Mr Nicolson Redmayne was fined £100 on a share dealings charge, and cleared of balance sheet charge. Mr James Cassman was found "not proven" on the balance sheet charge. Mr Edward Gamble was cleared of this charge.

## Opec experts discuss how to offset decline of dollar

An expert committee of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries met in London yesterday under the chairmanship of Shaikh Ali Khalifa Al-Sabah, the Kuwait oil minister, to discuss ways of compensating member countries for the decline in the value of the dollar.

The currency meeting has no power to alter prices itself, and can only make recommendations to oil ministers, but Shaikh Ali Khalifa is thought to have been given the authority to recall a full Opec meeting if necessary.

Building society intake falls to £147m

Building Societies' net receipts in June reached their lowest level for 18 months when they fell to £147m, compared with £212m in May, £335m in April and a peak of £390m in October.

June is seasonally a bad month—withdrawals are always high, particularly because of holidays—and this year competing interest rates were raised whereas the building societies' new investment rate did not come into operation until the beginning of this month.

The setback in net inflow of funds has not, however, significantly reduced the amount of lending undertaken by building societies. In June a total of £749m was advanced and a further £701m promised.

15 point Wall St rise surprises analysts

Wall Street surprised investors yesterday by rising 15.07 points to close at 339.83. Analysts said there were reasons for the market to have gone down: the huge rise in the basic money supply yesterday and the nation's industrial output rising only 1 per cent in June, the third successive month of narrowing gains.

However, the gain was broad-based as 421 issues closed higher and 385 finished lower on trading of 28,370,000 shares.

Automotive News, reported that Mr Iacocca's departure will take place on October 15—his 54th birthday.

Hambros plays down shipping loan debts

There is little in Hambros' annual report to indicate the scale of its shipping loan problems save a bland statement that "major provisions have been made against the relevant debts".

Outside estimates put the level of specific provisions variously at between £20m and £40m. But how this has been apportioned between the profit and loss account and inner reserves is not disclosed.

But judging by the remarks about the rest of its banking business—acceptances are up by £40m to £256m and all other areas have done much better—profits excluding provisions would have been sharply higher than the previous year's £6.3m, compared with the reported £5.2m.

As it is the group balance-sheet shows no scars with capital and reserves up from £53m to £65m and for the bank up from £44.6m to £45.3m, which only serves to underline the shortcoming of limited disclosure of bank accounts.

Ford president ousted by Detroit board

Mr Lee A. Iacocca was ousted on Thursday as president of the Ford Motor Company by Detroit by a unanimous vote of the board of directors.

The decision was confirmed yesterday by Mr William Clay Ford, whose recent elevation to a top executive spot in the automobile company headed by his brother, Mr Henry Ford II, fuelled speculation that Mr Iacocca was on his way out.

The vote on the recommendation

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## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

## Banking

## Get a loan while the going is good

Those smiles that should have greeted you in your bank earlier this year may well be turning into frosty stares. The chances now of topping up your overdraft or even being given the more expensive personal loan to cover the summer holiday say, are becoming slimmer every day.

At the very least you will have to come up with a more convincing reason for your spending than simply to indulge a whim, although you may still get a sympathetic hearing for things like home improvements. But even here bank managers may not have much leeway for much longer. At the heart of the problem is that managers have been a little too successful this year in persuading customers to borrow more, and this threat of a runaway growth in bank lending to the personal sector has been one of the chief worries for the Government in its economic planning.

Last month the authorities took steps to rein back personal lending and, unless the banks toe the line, they will find themselves paying large penalties to the Bank of England by the autumn.

Concussions from the banking system this week, however, show that the big clearing banks in particular are not finding it easy to get below their allotted ceilings. What seems to be happening is that big companies borrowing large sums of money are already arranged big overdrafts in case of controls on bank lending are now turning to their clearers again and if this con-

tinues for another month or so personal customers will have to bear the brunt of the cutbacks. Already head offices of the clearing banks have reminded managers of the guidelines which say that lending to manufacturing companies has priority. There is now talk of a tighter credit squeeze.

So, if you intend to borrow, my advice is to go to your manager on Monday. Even loans from hire purchase companies may soon be harder to get, with the companies owned by the big clearers governed by the same restrictions as their parents and the independents, like United Dominions Trust, already having to review their level of new business.

Rather unfairly, the banks have to bear the brunt of complaints of customers about curbs on lending and the fact that the cost of borrowing has jumped by more than a half since the start of the year, when in fact these are the direct result of government policy.

So it is perhaps unhelpful for them that they are having to placate customers on these fronts when they are also pushing through rises in their charges. Bank charges are such an emotive topic these days that it seems hard to discuss them in a rational way. My own feelings, which seem to be backed up by market research within the banks themselves, is that they are not the touching subject they are made out to be.

My colleague Sheila Black, who knows a thing or two about value when she sees it, must have spoken for many when a



## BANK CHARGES

	Minimum balance for free banking	Debit charge	Notional interest allowed on current accounts balances
Barclays	£100 min or £200 average	10p	5%
Midland	£50	8p	5%
National Westminster	£50	15p	1% under deposit rate
Lloyds	£100 min	12½p	1% under deposit rate

7½p for cash dispensers.

A few weeks ago the complacent bank of the cheapness of the service it provided. In any case, with the threat of five customers at the banks qualifying for free banking, you have to be fairly maladroit in the use of your current account to incur charges or incurably in the red.

The scale of increases that National Westminster and Lloyds have recently introduced looks stiff and these will almost certainly be followed by Barclays and Midland in the new year. NatWest has increased debit entries from 10p to 15p and Lloyds from 10p to 12½p. But even those who pay charges should find themselves paying only about another £5 a year at most.

If this encourages you to change banks, it could be that you have not been getting the right service and should have changed before.

But why not consider two accounts, one for everyday purposes at the TSB where banking is free, at least for the moment, and one at a clearer to cater for your other banking needs?

What the rise in bank charges should lead to, however, is changes in the way current accounts are used. One simple way of cutting down the number of debit entries is to use the bank giro system to pay several bills—gas, electricity and telephone—with one cheque.

More interesting in the

longer term is Lloyds' decision to cut the cost of using its cash dispensers, since for the first time this offers customers a choice between using faceless machines or an across-the-counter teller in effect the choice between a first and second-class service. If this were extended to the other banks it would provide the banks with the best market research yet about what customers really want.

One of my worries, however, is that the concentration on bank charges, where the banks have a strong if not watertight case after the Price Commission report, diverts attention away from more important matters of interest to customers, namely the quality of service offered by the big banks.

The very success of the building societies, and the roads being made by the Co-operative Bank, the TSBs and in its own small way even by the Lloyds, suggest that many are not happy with the service provided by the big clearers. Fortunately, we are not yet at the point reached in New York where long queues and indifferent service are among the problems facing banking. But the big banks still seem to turn a deaf ear to customer suggestions on how to improve service—quick service tills, for example, or self-service for the simple expedient of a proper queueing system still seems to be the imagination of more than a few branches.

Ronald Pullen

## Housing market

## June was a good month for selling

June is traditionally a good month for those selling houses as buyers take advantage of the sunshine to search for a new home. Last month, despite the bad weather, was no exception.

The Times/Halifax house price index shot up by 5.9 per cent—by far the largest monthly rise since it was launched in January—showing an average house price of £16,381.

However, because of seasonal factors, the index shows a month-on-month increase of 4 per cent after adjustment, rather than almost 6 per cent. Since the beginning of the year prices of existing houses have risen by 11.4 per cent, while new house prices rise show a remarkably similar gain of 11.1 per cent over the same period. But this coincidence conceals the divergent patterns of price rises shown by the two categories of housing.

Over the 12-month period new houses are 16.9 per cent higher, compared with a rise of 16.9 per cent for second-hand homes. But the last quarter picture is reversed: new house prices rose by 4.4 per cent, while existing houses put on a 3.4 per cent and jumped by 7.4 per cent.

The message is clear enough: new house prices have established a lead over second-hand prices, but it is unrealistic to expect it to widen further. Indeed the gap has already begun to narrow and further narrowing can be expected over the next few months.

Many readers will doubtless find it a little odd that at a time when everyone is talking about the housing market, the "index of the bull" The Times/Halifax index should show such an increase. Lots of factors are at work here—not least the delayed impact of the earlier reports of rising house prices. This takes time to work through to the average house bought by people of modest incomes.

The index is based on the housing market as a whole, which is significantly better than what the statisticians refer to as the "leading edge" or marginal movements signalled by values' reports. In other words, the widely publicized high prices reported in March and April were at the margin, while the average movement was much more moderate.

But by now some of the early spring surge in prices of the most highly sought-after property has filtered through to the rest of the market, including many properties which are sold privately.

Another reason for the index jump is, ironically, the Government-imposed cutback in mortgage lending, which was designed to prevent a house price explosion.

Initially, the rationing had the effect of concentrating available mortgage funds on the medium-range and cheaper property. By June the message had got through to all sectors of the market that funds were scarce, with the result that although demand remained well ahead of supply, the Halifax was able to revert to a more normal pattern of lending and there was a shift "up-market" in the property mix.

There is also a tentative hint that the "recent increase" in the mortgage interest rate, which admittedly does not appear to affect demand very much, could deter more potential

## The Times/Halifax house price index

Monthly index of average prices of second-hand (Dec 1977=100)

	Index	Average price £	% change over 1 year	% change over 6 months
1975 June	86.0	12,846		
Sept	85.4	12,582		
Dec	85.3	12,533		
1976 March	87.7	12,886		
June	92.1	13,544		
Sept	92.0	13,531		
Dec	91.2	13,413		
1977 March	89.8	13,197	2.3	-2.5
June	93.3	14,011	3.5	4.5
Sept	96.1	14,122	1.9	0.8
Dec	98.8	14,234	4.6	0.8
March	99.9	14,249	5.3	0.0
June	98.0	14,402	7.8	5.8
Sept	99.2	14,580	7.5	7.0
Dec	100.0	14,701	9.6	4.9
1978 Jan	100.8	14,824	11.1	8.0
Feb	98.4	14,618	11.5	2.8
March	103.7	15,248	15.5	7.0
April	104.3	15,384	12.6	0.5
May	105.2	15,465	13.5	6.3
June	111.4	16,381	16.9	11.4

## Quarterly index of Average Prices of New Houses (Dec 1977=100)

Quarter ended	Index	Average price £	% change over 1 year
1975 Sept	80.4	13,211	
Dec	81.0	13,311	
1976 Mar	82.4	13,537	
June	86.4	14,200	
Sept	88.2	14,491	
Dec	87.7	14,417	
1977 Mar	88.4	14,685	8.48
June	81.9	15,089	8.28
Sept	95.7	15,733	8.57
Dec	100.0	16,435	14.00
1978 Mar	105.4	17,488	18.1
June	111.1	18,252	21.0

## Average regional prices of second-hand houses

	June	May	April	change over 1 year
North	13,616	13,333	12,989	
Yorks and Humber	11,735	11,118	11,292	
North-west	13,553	12,480	12,937	
East Midlands	12,137	12,333	12,384	
West Midlands	15,405	15,231	15,088	
East Anglia	14,382	14,348	13,887	
Wales	14,126	13,505	13,251	
South-west	15,583	15,985	15,871	
South-east	20,983	20,197	18,551	
Greater London	20,899	19,482	19,825	
Scotland	16,884	16,093	15,853	

## RICS survey of house prices

## Three-month comparison\*

	Very much less (10% or more)	Much less (5% or more)	Slightly less (about 2%)	The same	Slightly more (about 2%)	Much more (5% or more)	Very much more (10% or more)
Pre 1919 terrace	6	15	42	33			
Inter-war	13	32	38	18			
1939-1959 semi	19	33	38	10			
1939-1959 semi	21	32	34	13			
Post 1960 semi	25	35	27	12			
Post 1960 semi	24	36	28	12			
New houses	33	33	26	8			

\*The figures show percentage of estate agents who find the prices have moved in line with the various categories listed.

## first-time buyers than those

"trading up". Moving on to the estate agents' impression of the housing market, it is immediately apparent that the "margin" theory holds good here, too. RICS members are able to discern the new price trend, which will take longer to move through the system at large.

After several months of reporting prices much higher than they were three months ago, a greater number of estate agents now find that prices are no longer appreciably higher, but are merely some 5 per cent more in the case of post-war homes, and only slightly more than they were in the case of inter-war ones.

Throughout the country, RICS members are reporting that prices appear to be "tailoring" the slowing down and "levelling off". The other heartening piece of news, for

those who prefer an existing house, is that more properties are now coming on to the market. Prospective vendors longer holding back, hope of bigger gains, the increased flow is sufficient to demand.

Boys, however, are not. Unmodernized houses are not easy to sell. On the other hand, the higher priced houses seem to be in demand. In some districts it is not a popular category of house, and one showing rapid price increase; in others it is a forecast of prices for this range of property might fall slightly next quarter.

Margaret St

## Grouse

Dr Peter Williams, a London general practitioner, pays £3 a year to the General Medical Council to retain his name on its register. If he did not do so, he would be unable to practice and would lose his sole source of income. So, quite rightly, the £3 is allowed against income tax.

Mr Horace Bromley, The Times Business News Librarian pays £32.24 a year in union dues to his union Natsopa. His membership of the union is a condition of his work, but it is not allowable against tax. Yet he earns far less than Dr Williams and he, too, must pay his dues in order to eat.

If you are a doctor, lawyer or architect the fees to your professional association are allowable. Trade union dues, which can be equally unescapable, are not.

Yet, unfair though this anomaly appears to be, the Revenue defends it. It says "Since a closed shop is considered to be in existence before, rather than during the course of work it cannot be an allowable expense in the course of work."

On the other hand the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970 allows fees and subscriptions to professional, bodies and learned societies, as well as to their equivalent registration councils, to be tax deductible.

In other words, a subscription for a professional magazine can be set against income, but not a union subscription without which it might not be possible to work.

Isn't the Revenue in danger of applying a double standard—one for the professions and the other for the rest of the population whose position may parallel that of the professionals. Years are spent acquiring certain skills by others, besides doctors and lawyers, and other people have to learn their trade and need their "equivalent ticket" to work, but they cannot at present claim for it.

Worse than that, the Inland Revenue keeps a separate list of organizations whose subscriptions it deems tax-allowable. No outside body is involved. Is it really up to the Revenue to decide what is a trade and what are professions?

## Collecting

## Coins are not the easiest way to make money

Decimalization in 1971 put an end to one of the country's most popular hobbies—the search for the elusive 1933 penny. Only one has escaped into circulation and if you found one in your change at the pub you would be rich enough to buy the place—that was the rumour.

In fact, the last 1933 penny sold at auction fetched £7,000 and did not come to light on the bar room counter.

The public's fascination with the potential value of the change in its pockets has, however, survived the trauma of decimalization and the arrival of modern money.

It has produced many myths, among them the belief that investment in coins is always a profitable hobby. But, with the exception of top quality coins, you are unlikely to make money by collecting them—at least in the short to medium term.

That is the message of an analysis of the price movement over the past three years of 17 coins listed in the 1975 catalogue of London dealer Seaby. Seaby's combined catalogue price in 1975 for this "portfolio" was £3,661.50. For the same coins in the same condition from the 1978 catalogue, today's price is £4,003.

They point out, though, that you should wait at least five years before judging your investment. Some coins have increased in price more than others, some have actually decreased in price but the Seaby total is a reasonable reflection of what would have happened had you invested in these coins three years ago.

You would have made 9.3 per cent profit over the period. 1 per cent per year. Allowing for inflation, though, you would have lost, and your money would have been better off if the Post Office. Over a longer period the rewards are likely to be greater.

Seaby is unlikely to build another portfolio which, with hindsight, would show a greater return, but he chose a specific list of historical English coins known to be of interest to collectors.

They covered a period from Alfred the Great to the present day, were made of copper, silver and gold, and came in five very fine and extremely fine conditions. These are the terms used by the trade to grade the coins and, generally speaking, the more modern the

coin the better its condition will be.

The choice did not include rarities, though the most expensive coin in the collection, a 1911 silver half-crown, was quoted in 1975 at £1,400. It would sell for the same price today.

Condition, metal, and rarity are the three factors which govern the price of coins and the would-be collector needs to be aware of them all. If the collector is to be a hobbyist and not an investor, the condition need only be "fine", but for any chance of a reasonable return only "extremely fine" will do.

That is the advice of Patrick Finn, coin expert at Spink and Son, the Royal coin dealers. He explains: "The grading of coins is the most important factor in their price and different dealers will grade the same coin differently."

"The collector should always be on his guard that he is not buying a 'fine' coin at an 'extremely fine' price and should keep a regular check on the catalogues to compare prices."

Since coins have been struck since 700 BC to one part of the globe or another, the investment opportunities are many and it is not always gold which will give the best return. An "extremely fine" 1860 Victorian half penny, for example, could be bought from Seaby's for £3 in 1975. Today it would cost £12, a rise of 50 per cent.

At Spink's, Mr Finn shares the enthusiasm for copper. "This, together with silver, is the most popular area

for the British collector", he says.

"Quality British copper at the moment represents the best investment for the collector, with £1,000 to spend you

As with stamps, you must be prepared to spend if you wish to turn your hobby into any sort of investment. The annual expenditure, Mr Finn estimates, for serious collecting of top condition coins is a minimum of £2,000.

But even for those spending heavily coin collecting can carry risks. Not least among them is finding the right dealer, in whose hands the amateur collector is very firmly placed. Unlike other forms of investment, the price of coins depends on the dealer's judgment, particularly as regards their condition.

Most dealers are honest, but some are out to make a profit. You should seek a dealer who is a member of either the International Association of Numismatists or the British Numismatic Trade Association.

When it comes to selling, you are again heavily reliant on the dealer for the right price—unless you go to auction. And do not forget the dealer's "turn". With most forms of alternative investment you can reckon that dealers buy back from you at a price 30 per cent below the selling price.

Coin dealers emphasize that collecting can be a profitable hobby, rather than an expense. But so with any investment, readers should ponder that small word "can".

Roger Beard

## SELECTED LIST FROM SEABY CATALOGUE

Coin	1975 price	1978 price
King Alfred penny, fine	28	27
William I. pax penny, fine	30	35
Edward I. silver penny, fine	4	4
Henry VIII. young head gold, fine	18	20
Elizabeth I. 30s gold sovereign, fine	1,400	1,400
Elizabeth I. 1801 silver half-crown, fine	140	200
Charles I. Briault silver, very fine	350	500
Charles II. 2 guinea elephant, fine	350	325
George III. spade guinea, very fine	130	125
George III. silver Bank of England dollar, very fine	35	60
1797 cartwheel 2-penny, very fine	6	7.50
George III. 1817 sovereign, very fine	125	125
Victoria £5 gold 1847, extremely fine	525	550
Victoria gothic crown 1847, extremely fine	250	325
Victoria bun penny 1860, extremely fine	8	12
George V. Jubilee crown 1935, extremely fine	6.50	7.00
Elizabeth II gold sovereign 1962, extremely fine	26	32.50

## Round-up

## More about bicycles and school leavers

Last Saturday's piece on bicycle insurance, has had cycling enthusiasts racing to tell us of the special cover available to members of the Cyclists' Touring Club. Among other benefits, for their £5-a-year membership fee they receive free third party cover up to £300,000 anywhere in the world; provided they are resident in the United Kingdom.

Through a special arrangement with the Corubili Insurance group members can also take advantage of preferential cycle insurance. This allows them to insure their machines against theft or loss and to a limited extent themselves against physical injury.

There are two schemes, indemnity and cost for cost. Rates for the indemnity scheme start at £3 for £50 insured, with 20p for each further £10 up to £100. Above this, the rate increases to 40p for each further £10 insured.

£4.50 for the first £50 insured, and goes up by 30p and 60p jumps per £10, respectively. Guildford insurance brokers Graham Brown, who arranged the special scheme, tell us that most claims in both sectors are for theft—a growth area.

There is one point of caution. According to the conditions of the scheme, you are covered against theft of your bicycle, but not against the theft of anything from your bicycle.

Details can be obtained from the Cyclists' Touring Club, Cotterell House, 69 Meadow, Godalming, Surrey GU7 3HS.

The Trustee Savings Bank this week continued its drive for new custom by announcing on Thursday a free banking scheme for school leavers. It already operates some 5,000 cycle banking schemes among 500,000 school pupils.

debts or statements for a year after opening their TSB account. The conditions are that they open the account either before they leave school or within six months of doing so and that they keep in credit.

To back its campaign, the TSB has also sponsored a handbook on careers available from TSB Central Board, 3 Copthall Avenue, London EC2P 3AB; £2.50 paperback, £4.50 hardback.

On Monday Liberty Life released the results of a commissioned survey on the finances of housewives and, according to it, one in 10 is lucky enough to have average personal savings of £525, put away at the rate of £9.50 a week.

The other nine were rather worrying. They are the "financially battered" wives. They have no money of their own, their own children have a week for pocket money.

Liberty Life claims that it has a plan to make sure that this does not happen in the future. At the same time is the survey results, the company launched its Women's Key Plan—a unit-linked savings scheme directed at the salary-earning single woman.

The policy is issued in £1 units which can be reduced or increased according to the insured's circumstances and the death cover can be transferred to her husband should she marry.

If that marriage does not work and there is a divorce, she can transfer the death cover back to herself. If she marries again, she can again transfer it, this time to the second husband. But this is where the transfers stop.

## Insurance

## Topping up has many advantages

While it may be true in insurance that you cannot have too much of a good thing (providing you can pay for it), it does not always pay to have life insurance in too large pieces. Flexibility is becoming increasingly important and this can be achieved by buying a number of separate policies.

The same argument holds for pension policies. For principal partners, the self-employed and anybody whose employer is not providing an occupational pension.

For those who are eligible, this represents just about the best form of long-term saving. To do the pension (or pension) limits, the whole of the contribution is payable from gross earnings—ie, it is free from tax at one's top rate.

Contributions accumulate gross to the insurance company's fund. When you decide to cash in, the pension (or pension) time between the ages of 60 and 75 part of it can be exchanged for a tax-free cash sum.

For those born in 1916 or later, the contribution limit is 15 per cent of net relevant earnings, subject to a maximum contribution in any year of £3,000. The limits for those born earlier are significantly higher.

Many people are paying around premiums which are much lower than their income. It is well worth "topping up" these contributions, so as to take maximum advantage of the tax reliefs.







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